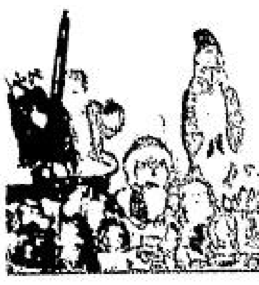

■ Metro / A23

The house where Santas (200) live on San Sebastian St., Quiapo

■ Lifestyle / C1

Inside the Inquirer: Lifestyle Section more about life than style

■ Lifestyle / F1

10 things women should know about men and their cars

■ Entertainment / A3-4

Stay Alive! That's the message at rocking hot MTV music summit for HIV/AIDS

Keon's reply to Thai gov't raps: We beat their princess

AYAN, DUMAMI TULOY MEDALYA NAMIN!

By Norman Bordadora

INSULTED BY ACCUSATIONS of cheating, Filipino athletes have pushed themselves even more to show the world that the country's pace-setting performance

KEON'S/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARL EWS

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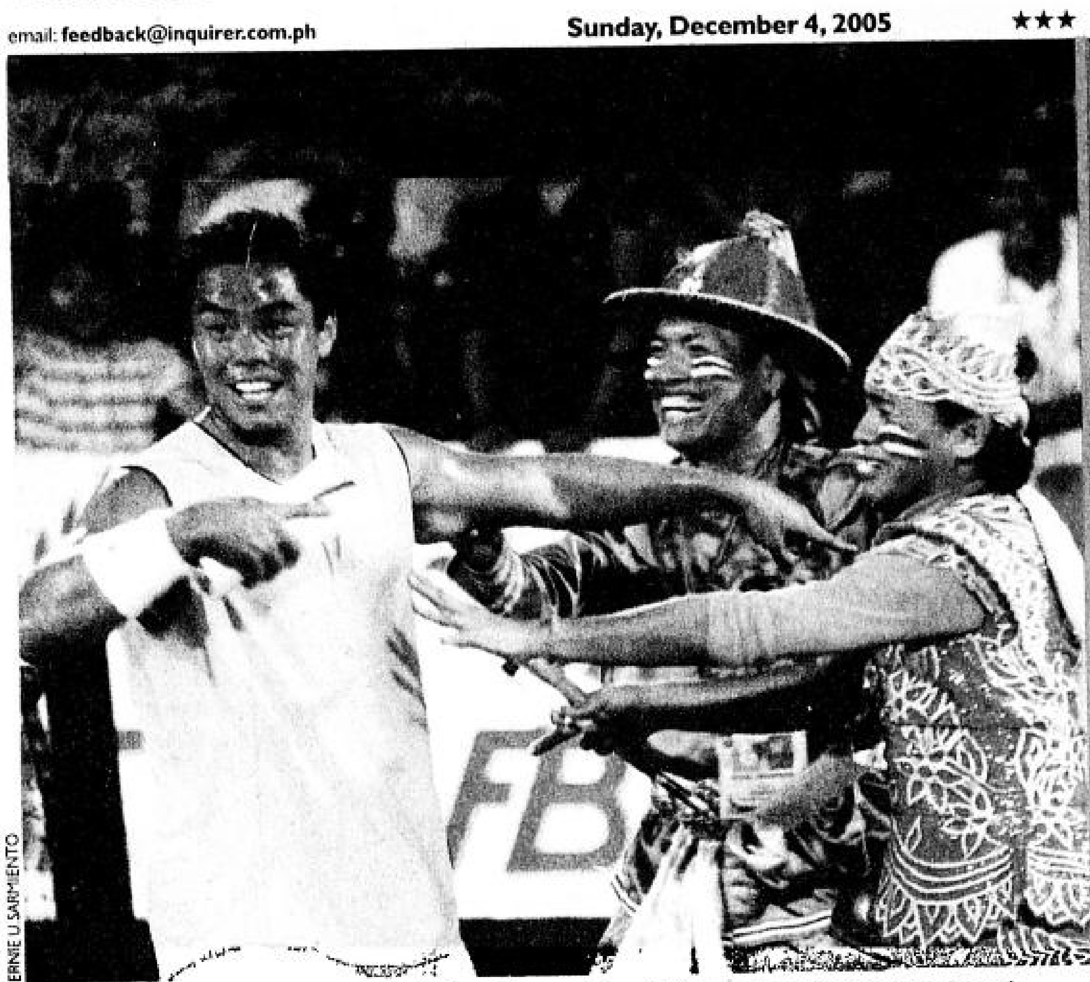
Sunday, December 4, 2005 ★★★ 15 sections /



ERNIE U SARMIENTO

WHO'S CHEATING? Cecil Mamiit (left) celebrates his gold in tennis against the No. 1 seed Danai Udomchoke of Thailand by dancing with the latter's cheerleaders. This is the event the Thai deputy prime minister watched shortly after his arrival here on Saturday.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

COLOR HIM GOLD. Alfie Catalan powers 'round a bend to top cycling's 4-km individual pursuit event at the Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City. He breaks the 5-minute barrier for the first time.

FAIR LADY on the fairways: Frances Noelle Bondad leaps the better to see her shot in the ladies golf competition at the Country Club in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. She shot a 69 to help the RP team to 2nd place after three rounds.

JUN RAPANAN

'Our friendship remains'

Thai deputy PM sees clean win of Pinoy tennis ace

By Jasmine W. Payo and Philip C. Tubeza

WITHIN HOURS AFTER HE ARRIVED yesterday, Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop saw with his own eyes how a Filipino tennis ace vanquished his rival from Thailand fair and square—and captured the gold medal.

"You won the game, we lost the game but the friendship remains," Suwat told reporters after Cecil Mamiit of the Philippines defeated Thailand's Danai Udomchoke, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, in the men's finals of the Southeast Asian Games tennis competitions.

Suwat flew into Manila in the midst of a controversy stirred by Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra who had questioned the fairness of the officiating in several events of the 23rd edition of the regional meet hosted by the Philippines.

Practically reiterating the diplomatic statement released by Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs last Friday, Suwat stressed that the Philippines and Thailand "have very good relations."

"Our leader and your President are good friends," Suwat said at a press conference at the SEA Games' main press center.

"Any comment up to now, all the clarification, I would like to leave with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That is the official statement," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered an investigation into the contro-

OUR FRIENDSHIP/ A8

Games sked today in Sports, Page A30

Only an 'act of God' can stop Garci's coming out

By Michael Lim Ubac
in Cotabato City
and Juliet Labog-Javellana
in Manila

COTABATO CITY—ONLY AN "ACT OF God" will prevent Virgilio Garcillano from surfacing today in preparation for his testimony at the House inquiry into the "Hello Garci" scandal.

But that's according to his lawyer, Eddie Tamondong, who said yesterday that the former election official would come out of hiding to receive a letter from the House committees conducting the inquiry "inviting" him to attend the hearing on Dec. 7.

Tamondong and House sergeant at arms Bayani Favic, along with a number of reporters, arrived here yesterday bearing the letter.

ONLY/ A21

Boxers deliver more golds in RP drive for No. 1

By Roy Luarca

IT WAS THE BOXERS' TURN TO DELIVER the gold last night.

Displaying better movement and more power, the Filipino boxers snared eight gold medals in the boxing competitions and further bolstered the country's bid for overall supremacy in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Counting contributions from tennis star Cecil Mamiit, judokas Gilbert Ramirez and Karen Ann Solomon, the arnis men's and women's team, cyclist Alfie Catalan, board sailor German Paz and archer Amaya Paz, the Filipinos boosted their haul to 90 golds, 60 silvers and 67 bronzes.

Thailand was at second with a 53-62-81 tally, followed closely by Vietnam at 52-50-62.

The women's boxing team, headed by Asian champion Mitchel Martinez, sparked the Filipinos' romp when they went four-for-four in the finals.

Martinez defeated Ratree Kruake of Thailand, 28-10, in the lightweight division.

Also winning their final bouts were pinweight Alice Kate Aparri, who stopped Burma's (Myanmar) Kyu Kyu Thi (RSC, 2nd); flyweight Annie Albania who beat Vietnam's Yu Thi Hai Yen, 20-8, and bantam Jouveliet Chilem, who dumped Ta Thi Minhia, 22-3, also of Vietnam.

Inspired, pinweight Juanito Magliquian rocked Burma's Zaw Myo Win twice and led, 22-3, when the referee stopped the contest in the second round, as the Filipinos continued their rampage and regained boxing supremacy at the expense of the Thais.

World-class Harry Tanamor followed suit when he retained the flyweight crown by stopping Kyaw Swan Aung of Burma, 27-7 (Referee-Stopped-Contest-

BOXERS/ A8

Hungry little school feeds on dream to go high tech

By Volt Contreras

HUNGER IS NOTHING NEW IN THIS vocational school tucked away in the slums of Pandacan, Manila.

Erda Tech is for poor but deserving students, and it is not uncommon for them to attend classes on empty stomachs just to obtain the diploma or skills certificate needed to find gainful employment.

But lately, another kind of hunger has been spreading at Erda (or Educational Research and Development Assistance Foundation). And it's the kind that teachers wouldn't mind and have actually praised: The hunger for information technology.

In a letter sent to the Erda administration last August, a group of students requested a wider menu of courses beyond

HUNGRY/ A9

LYN RILLON

ANSWERED PRAYERS: Butuan Bishops Juan de Dios Pueblos (center) and Nereo Odchimar and priests pray over President Arroyo during Mass at a youth charismatic Marian congress at the Urios gym in Butuan City. Ms Arroyo's visit was reportedly "purely religious," contrary to rumors that she came to talk to former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano. (*Story on Page A6*).

World's first transplant of human face stirs ethics row

LYON, FRANCE—THE WORLD'S FIRST person to wear a new face awoke 24 hours after her operation in the northern city of Amiens, and looked in the mirror.

The swollen nose, lips and chin she saw there were not her own—those had been ripped from her head by her pet Labrador in May—but for the 38-year-old woman, whose face had become a raw, lipless grimace, they were close enough.

She took a pen and paper and wrote for the doctors, "Merci"—Thank you.

On Friday, five days after the operation, those doctors defended their rush to give the woman a partial face transplant just months after her disfigurement, despite the enormous risks of death and psychological difficulties. They dismissed objections that they were bent on glory at the expense of the patient, whose identity is being withheld at

WORLD'S/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have cloudy skies with rainshowers. Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent over Bicol region. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/12/04/05 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Name accomplices, Garcia urged

By Philip C. Tubeza and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

A SENIOR CONGRESSMAN YESTERDAY URGED retired Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia to help clean up the military by exposing his protectors and accomplices, even as President Macapagal-Arroyo hailed his conviction on charges of concealing ill-gotten wealth as a "triumph for military justice."

"General Garcia should now examine his conscience and situation and tell the whole truth about conversion and anomalies associated with him," Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said. "I am convinced that he could not have done what he is accused of committing without the protection of powerful *padrinos* (godfathers) and the help of abusive officers."

Golez was chair of the House committee that had investigated alleged anomalies in the military procurement system while Garcia was comptroller of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Garcia was sentenced by a military court to two years of hard labor last Friday for failing to declare millions of pesos in allegedly ill-gotten assets.

He is the highest Philippine officer to be convicted by a general court-martial and, along with members of his family, is being tried by the Sandiganbayan on plunder charges that are punishable by death. They are accused of amassing up to P345 million in ill-gotten wealth through kickbacks and other alleged anomalies in military supply contracts.

GMA statement

"The President commends the speedy disposition of the case," Ms Arroyo's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said in a statement yesterday on the culmination of Garcia's yearlong trial.

"This is a triumph for military justice and shows that acts against the integrity of the uniform will not go unpunished," Bunye said, adding that the decision also showed the stability and professionalism of the military.

But Golez said Garcia's conviction was not enough.

"The cleanup would be incomplete if he is the only one charged and punished. I am sorry for Major General Garcia but that is how justice ought to work. It should not spare the powerful," he said.

"The next battlefield is the Sandiganbayan and I am hopeful General Garcia will also be given proper and firm justice in the civilian court," Golez said.

Ombudsman exhorted

A number of administration lawmakers echoed his sentiments and urged newly named Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to pursue the plunder case against the 57-year-old Garcia in the Sandiganbayan.

House Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin and Lakas-CMD Rep. Salacnib Baterina (Ilocos Sur) said Garcia's conviction should serve as a stern warning to other military officers and public servants that government will not tolerate graft and corruption.

Baterina said pursuing Garcia's case in the Sandiganbayan may be among the initial challenges faced by Gutierrez, who had declared she would be merciless against grafters in government.

"With Ombudsman Gutierrez's diligence and intellectual competence, we believe her office can bring about an immediate resolution to the plunder case against Garcia," he said.

"You amass ill-gotten wealth and you'll have a place in jail no matter how cramped it is," Salapuddin said. "This is also proof of government's determination to arrest graft and corruption as a key to good governance. We therefore urge Ombudsman Gutierrez to pursue the plunder suit against Garcia to bring total closure to his cases."

Political will

Salapuddin said Garcia's conviction by the Sandiganbayan would demonstrate the political will and determination of the administration and the resoluteness of the armed forces leadership, under chief of staff Gen. Generoso Senga, to go after grafters.

But most of all, it will "placate the restless junior officers and men" in the AFP, like the so-called Magdalo Group, which staged a mutiny in July 2003 and pressed for military reforms, he said.

Other officers

Apart from Garcia, at least two other officers have been implicated in anomalies in the military comptrollership office which has since been abolished.

They are Lt. Col. George Rabusa and Lt. Col. Antonio Ramon "Sonny" Lim, who served as budget officers of Garcia but have so far not been charged before any civil or military court. Both remain in the active service.

The disclosure last year of Garcia's alleged assets here and in the US spurred reports of other corruption cases in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Comptrollership (J-6).

Garcia's predecessor, Lt. Gen. Jacinto Ligot, was recently charged with corruption in the Sandiganbayan. He was not investigated by the military before he retired last August.

Ligot was chief comptroller from July 1999 to March 2001, while Garcia was comptroller from March 2001 to March 2004.

With a report from AFP

ON THE DAY the newspapers headlined the conviction of Brig. Gen. Carlos Garcia (ret.), cadets of Class 2008 of the Philippine Military Academy danced to party tunes at Burnham Park in Baguio City in the annual Silahis ng Pasko, which begins the city's countdown to Christmas. It was the one time civilians saw the normally rigid and exact cadets moving out of synch.

VINCENT CABREZA/NORTHERN LUZON

Cebu media to learn to use guns

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—THE KAPISANAN ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) in Cebu together with other media groups will start holding training programs on how to use firearms next year.

Alarmed by Thursday's killing of radio reporter George Benaojan, KBP-Cebu president Edward Abad said yesterday he was endorsing the plan to arm the media.

Abad, who manages ABC-21 here, said Benaojan's death convinced him that practicing journalists, particularly those who had been getting threats, should not only be armed, they should get proper training on how to use firearms.

Benaojan, 27, senior reporter of radio station dyDD Bantay Radyo, was shot four times by a lone gunman in front of his merchandise store at the South Central Market mini mall in Barangay Lawaan, Talisay City, at 9:30 p.m. on Thursday. He died three hours later at Chong Hua Hospital in this city.

Police said Benaojan was killed by a gun-for-hire who had a pending warrant for murder and robbery. It was not known if the killing was related to the victim's job in media.

Chief Insp. Juanito Enguerra, head of the Provincial Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (PIIB), said the suspect was identified by eyewitness Adriano "Jammy" Llanos, a friend of Benaojan's.

Llanos said Benaojan was a licensed gun owner but, unfortunately, at the time of the attack, he had left his gun in his store.

Cebu Provincial Police Office (CPPO) director Supt. Vicente Loot said he was not opposed to the proposal of arming the media. However, he said this was not necessary if journalists would practice fairness in their reports and commentaries.

"Media should be fair. They should report facts and real issues and not resort to personal attacks. It's true that the pen is mightier than the sword. You can write, you can shout to the whole world about alleged anomalies or illegal deeds as long as they're within the ethical standards of broadcasting," Loot said in Cebuano and English.

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
http://web.amnesty.org/actforwomen

Around 200,000 women and girl-children (ages12 - 20) from the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, South Korea, Japan, Indonesia,The Netherlands were subjected to the horrific Japanese sexual military slavery system. Survivors of the "jugun ianafu" (comfort women) system are now elderly and unknown numbers have died without justice...

"Some soldiers were good, others were evil, some kicked and punched me in the face when i refuse to 'serve' the soldiers and was beaten by my boss. I worked from 9am-4pm 'serving' soldiers. There were always a long queue. Waiting soldiers shout

'haiyaku! haiyaku!'

which means 'quickly! quickly!'. From 5pm-8am, the second shift began, this was for high ranking officers who were allowed to spend the night with women. I had to

serve 40 - 50 men a day...

I was in extreme pain all the time, it felt like i was on fire."

Amnesty International is working to highlight the fact that all over the world victims of sexual violence are denied redress. There is widespread impunity for these crimes where perpetrators go unpunished and survivors are denied any form of reparation including: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition. We, the section directors of Amnesty International, demand the government of Japan to **accept full responsibility** for the "comfort women" system and **provide its full accurate account in all documents** including all Japanese educational textbooks on World War II, **issue an apology** from the Japanese Diet that is acceptable to the majority of "comfort women" and their immediate relatives, **offer adequate and effective compensation** directly from the Japanese government, and guarantee non-repetition by **ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and supporting efforts to agree on an international arms trade treaty to stop the proliferation of weapons used to commit human rights violations particularly against women.**

Justice and reparation for all comfort women now!

Jessica U. Soto
Philippines

Harry Hummel
The Netherlands

Makoto Teranaka
Japan

Catherine Kim He-Jin
South Korea

You too can help our lolas!

Majority of the "comfort women" are gravely ill and in dire need of medicine and food for their daily sustenance. Many of the Filipina "comfort women" are immobile and bedridden. You may send your donations through Amnesty International Pilipinas. You can get in touch with us at telephone nos. 927 9856 / 927 6008 or visit our office at #17-B Kasing-kasing st. cor. K8th, Kamias, Quezon City or email: admin@amnesty.org.ph.

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Doctor of Humanities

Don Stephen Sy Gaisano, Sr. (right) receives Doctors of Humanities, honoris causa, award from Rev. Fr. Roderick Salazar Jr., SVD, president of the University of San Carlos, Cebu City.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, December 4, 2005
2nd Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

Prepare the way of the Lord
"Be comforted, my people,
be strengthened," says your God.
"Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, proclaim to her
that her time of bondage is at an end,
that her guilt has been paid for,
that from the hand of Yahweh
she has received double punishment
for all her iniquity."
A voice cries,
"In the wilderness prepare the way for Yahweh.
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley will be raised up;
every mountain and hill will be laid low.
The stumbling blocks shall become level
and the rugged places smooth.
The glory of Yahweh will be revealed,
and all mortals together will see it;
for the mouth of Yahweh has spoken."
Go up onto the high mountain, messenger of Zion,
lift up your voice with strength,
fear not to cry aloud when you tell Jerusalem
and announce to the cities of Judah:
"Here is your God!"
Here comes your God with might;
his strong arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and here before him is his booty.
Like a shepherd he tends his flock:
he gathers the lambs in his arms,
he carries them in his bosom,
gently leading those that are with young.

2nd Reading: 2nd Peter 3:8-14

Awaiting new heavens and a new earth

Do not forget, brothers and sisters, that with the Lord, one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years is like one day. The Lord does not delay in fulfilling his promise, though some speak of delay; rather he gives you time because he does not want anyone to perish, but that all may come to conversion. The Day of the Lord is to come like a thief. Then the heavens will dissolve with a great noise; the elements will melt away by fire, and the earth with all that is on it will be burned up.

Since all things are to vanish, how holy and religious your way of life must be, as you wait for the Day of God and long for its coming, when the heavens will dissolve in fire and the elements melt away in the heat. We wait for a new heaven and a new earth in which justice reigns, according to God's promise.

Therefore, beloved, as you wait in expectation of this, strive that God may find you rooted in peace, without blemish or fault.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Prepare the way for the coming of Christ

This is the beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of Isaiah, the prophet, "I am sending my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way. Let the people hear the voice calling in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, level his paths."

So John began to baptize in the desert; he preached a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judea and all the people from the city of Jerusalem went out to John to confess their sins and be baptized by him in the river Jordan.

John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather garment around his waist. His food was locusts and honey. He preached to the people saying, "After me comes one who is more powerful than I am; I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. As for me, I am not worthy to bend down and untie his sandals."

Commentary

How does God come to us? This is how it begins—this news of Jesus Christ, Son of God. He comes in the tradition of the prophets Isaiah and the voice crying out in the desert: prepare the way; level his paths. And John the Baptizer comes calling for a baptism of repentance that leads to forgiveness. Preparation: find the way, level out injustices and make the way in peace, repent, forgive others and turn towards the One who comes with the power and Spirit of God. The hand of our God comes with the strength of one who comforts and sets free. God draws near us.

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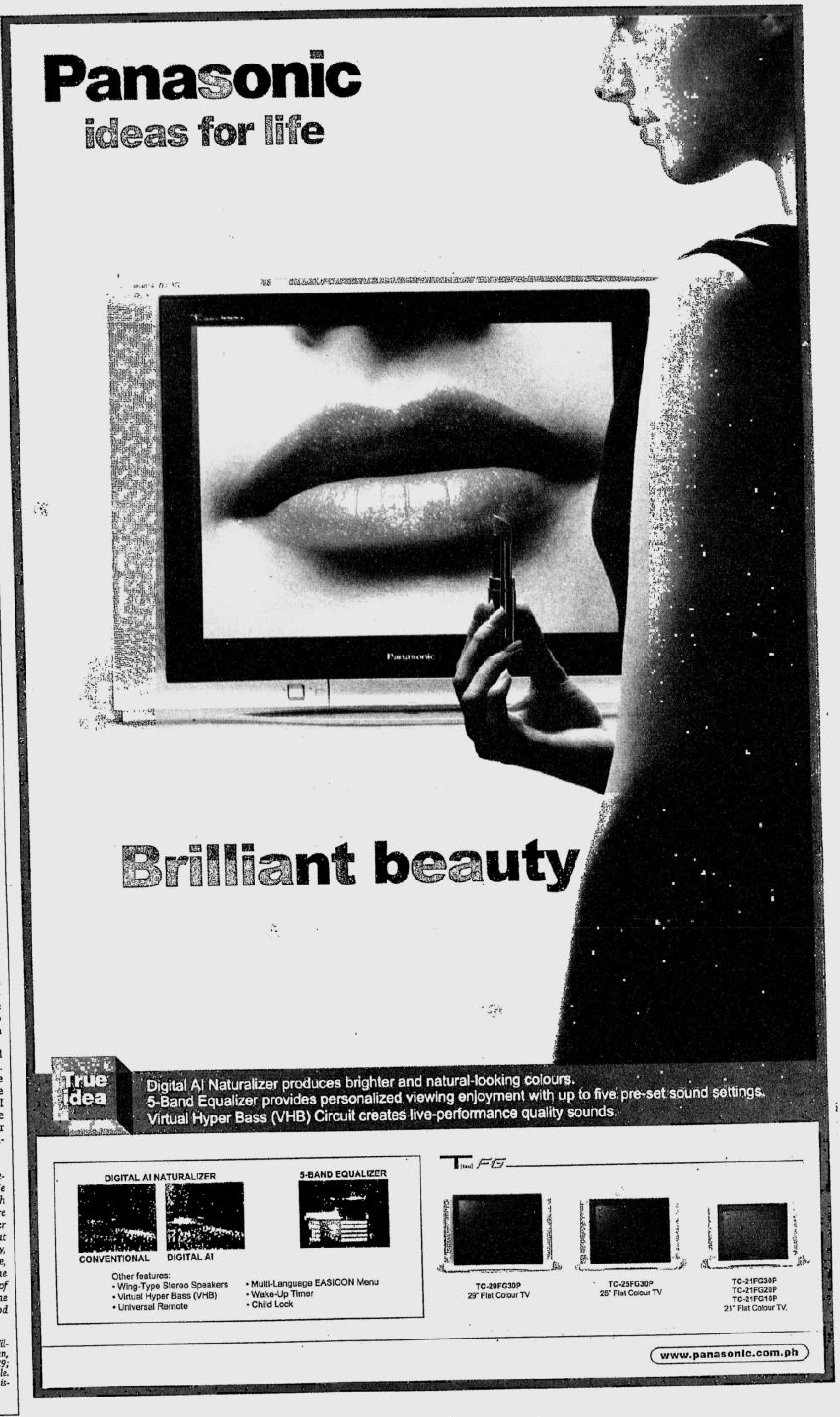

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GMA for Cha-cha if term won't be cut, say solons

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will only make good on her promise to support Charter change if she remains President up to end of her term in 2010 and with no diminution of her powers, according to an administration senator.

"Her best case scenario is that her term is not cut short and her powers are not diminished," said the senator, who asked not to be named.

Short of that, he said, Ms Arroyo will not back the Charter change process being doggedly pursued by Speaker Jose de Venecia and former President Fidel Ramos.

The senator, who talked with Ms Arroyo recently, said he did not believe "the President really wants to Cha-cha."

He said she only agreed to it when she was politically vulnerable.

Last July, when she faced a crisis of legitimacy and was in danger of being toppled, Ms Arroyo was given crucial support by Ramos and De Venecia, who offered the Cha-cha compromise as a "graceful exit."

Another administration senator said the senators had been getting mixed signals from the President on the Charter change issue.

"Before she wanted it, now she doesn't want it," said the senator in a separate interview.

He said the possibility that the President would "lose control" over the outcome of the amendments once Congress undertakes the Charter change process may be the cause of her ambivalence.

But another administration senator reported having received a call from Ms Arroyo last week asking: "Can you help me with Cha-cha?"

This senator also got the sense that the President wanted to protect her full constitutional term if there should be a change in the form of government before 2010.

The Speaker has talked about completing the amendments by next March or April and implementing the shift to a parliamentary-federal system of government in 2007. He said the eventual setup may well be a system with a strong Prime Minister and a largely ceremonial President.

Recently, De Venecia and other top House leaders signed a covenant with the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, the umbrella organization of all local government units, calling for immediate Charter change but also vowing to respect the President's term.

The covenant did not specify, however, whether Ms Arroyo would retain her powers or be relegated to a symbolic head of state in the transition.

Members of the Consultative Commission, the body formed by the President to recommend constitutional amendments, have also talked of letting the President serve out her six-year term despite an early shift from the presidential-unitary to a parliamentary-federal system of government.

The Concom has approved the shift but has yet to formalize the terms of the transition, including what to do with Ms Arroyo. The 54-member Concom is expected to submit its recommendations to the President on Dec. 15.

GRIEF FOR A MISSIONARY TOOTS SOBERANO/NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

The family of slain Rural Missionaries of the Philippines coordinator Jose "Pepe" Manegdeg III reacts to the sight of his body which had 22 bullet wounds after he was shot by an assailant in San Esteban, Ilocos Sur, last Monday. Manegdeg had just spoken at a seminar sponsored by the Ilocos Human Rights Advocates shortly before he was gunned down. His wife Florence (left) raises a fist while his mother Teodora is distraught at their home in Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte.

Gov denies GMA flew to see Garci

AN OVERNIGHT VISIT BY PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo to Butuan City has sparked speculation that she went there to meet with former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Agusan del Sur Gov. Adolf Edward Plaza strongly denied this, claiming he would have arrested Garcillano and collected the P1 million reward from the opposition.

"She came here for a religious event," said Plaza.

The President flew to Butuan on Friday and stayed overnight at the mansion of the Plazas whose matriarch, former Gov. Valentina Plaza, is a close ally.

This gave rise to rumors that Garcillano, who recently emerged after months of hiding and evaded testifying on the alleged wiretapped conversations between him and the President, may be staying at the Plaza mansion.

Plaza said Ms Arroyo came to his city for one purpose only – to attend a convention of Adore, the Catholic charismatic group founded by Valentina Plaza.

Yesterday, Adore members prayed over the embattled Ms Arroyo to help her survive the various crises besetting her administration.

Wearing a powder blue suit, the President looked relaxed as Butuan Bishop Juan de Dios Pueblos and Tandag Bishop Nereo Odchimar led about 30 priests and Adore members in asking God to guide and give the President strength during a Mass at the Urios gym.

In his homily, Pueblos called on the people to unite and help the government in steering the nation forward.

After the Mass, Ms Arroyo and her party flew to Pampanga in the presidential plane.

Plaza said Ms Arroyo did not talk politics during dinner with local politicians. He said the conversation centered on the impact of the entry of mining and logging firms in the Caraga region.

Ms Arroyo promptly went to bed at 8 p.m., he said.

Malacañang, meanwhile, has extended another olive branch to the President's political foes as it sought "closure" to the lingering political crisis sparked by the "Hello Garci" tapes alleging cheating in the 2004 elections.

"We are over the hump as far as political turmoil and destabilization are concerned and there is no more need for barbed fences. We shall continue to reach out for principled reconciliation with our detractors," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Bunye said it was necessary to move on from the "Hello Garci" scandal for the country to move forward. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Gil C. Cabacungan, Metro Manila*

Vatican ethics meet in Manila takes up cloning, other issues

By Lito B. Zulueta

THE VATICAN HAS SENT ITS top bioethics watchdog, Archbishop Elio Sgreccia, to Manila to lead a summit here on bioethical issues such as cloning, abortion, euthanasia and homosexuality, the first time that the papacy is holding such a meeting in Asia.

Sgreccia is expected to address the summit's opening day tomorrow at the the University of Santo Tomas' St. Thomas Aquinas Research Complex. He will talk about "the foundations of the ethic of life."

The three-day congress is being hosted by UST and the Office of Bioethics of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Sgreccia heads the Pontifical Academy for Life, the Vatican clearing house on bioethical issues. It is composed of some 50 experts in theology, philosophy and the sciences coming from all over the world who were all appointed by the Pope. The academy meets at least once a year in Rome.

According to Fr. Fausto Gomez, a Dominican theologian and social scientist and a member of the academy, the meeting will celebrate the 10th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's encyclical, Evangelium Vitae (Gospel of Life), which was issued to commemorate Pope Paul VI's controversial encyclical, Humanae Vitae.

Humanae Vitae (Human Life) upheld the Church's traditional teachings against contraception and abortion, arguing that the natural law must always be defended. Evangelium Vitae reaffirmed Paul VI's encyclical and polemically argued for a "culture of life" against what John Paul II said was a widening "culture of death."

"It will be the first Vatican meet on bioethics in the Christian perspective to be held in Asia," Gomez said.

"The choice of Manila and UST as venue only emphasizes the fact that the Philippines and the pontifical university are a beacon light for the Church's teachings in a region that is disregarding biotechnology's moral implications in the name of profit and progress," he said.

The summit comes amid the furor unleashed by the document issued by the Catholic Congregation of Education, the Vatican education ministry, instructing seminaries not to accept applicants to the priesthood who have committed homosexual acts or who have "strong homosexual tendencies."

It also comes at a time when Asian countries like China, Singapore, Japan, Korea and Australia are opening the gates to advanced stem cell research, even as the West is busy debating its moral implications.

In the Philippines, efforts by some lawmakers to pass more stringent population-control measures, like a bill limiting couples to two children, are being strongly opposed by the Church. The House committee on appropriations recently junked the reproductive health care bill.

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Japanese to amuse RP kids

THE JAPANESE THEATER GROUP MANjukasha this week will hold a series of free shows for street children and children with disabilities during which the group will exhibit its repertoire of Japanese music and dance traditions.

More than providing entertainment, the Manjukasha's performances are educational and help promote the use of art as a catalyst for social change, according to Cecile Guidote Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

"Their artistry is a visual treat, a montage of diverse elements taken from kabuki, traditional and modern Japanese music, fashion, comedy and drama which will surely share the message of peace, love, sharing and understanding to its audience. The group's performances are very timely now that Christmas is fast approaching," Alvarez said.

The Manjukasha has performed before children afflicted with AIDS and other disabilities in such places as Russai (Chernobyl), Nepal, Burma (Myanmar), Mongolia and Thailand.

The group was founded in 1995, starting out as a commercial theater company. But after its founder, Kiyoe Fujinaka, met Mother Teresa, the Manjukasha turned to performing for charitable groups and for inmates of leprosariums, jails and reform schools.

The Manjukasha is scheduled to perform in Quezon City today. On Monday, it will meet President Macapagal-Arroyo and is expected to perform before the street children of Manila and children from the Philippine National School for the Blind and the Hospicio de San Jose, among others.

The group will also visit Pampanga and Nueva Ecija. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Ex-priest being hunted in RP

FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA — THE RETURN from the Philippines of a Filipino man, dismissed from the priesthood after he was accused of fondling two boys in the mid-90s in Fargo and West Fargo, is being sought by the Cass County prosecutor.

Fernando Sayasaya, believed to be in the Philippines, is accused of fondling the boys when he served in parishes in Fargo and West Fargo. He is charged with gross sexual imposition in Cass County.

The Fargo Roman Catholic Diocese said Thursday the Vatican recently dismissed Sayasaya as a priest. The Fargo diocese had him relieved of his duties in August 1998, when the allegations involving juveniles first surfaced.

Cass County State's Attorney Birch Burdick said authorities were still working to return Sayasaya to North Dakota to face charges. He said he had been notified of the church's action.

"It doesn't have any impact on our prosecution. We're looking at behavior that occurred several years back," Burdick said. *AP*

GULF AI
Co ulations to Gulf
o r inau flights

ON TO DUBLIN AND JOHANNESBURG ROGER MARGALLO

Middle Eastern airline Gulf Air on Dec. 1 began Manila to Johannesburg and Manila to Dublin flights aimed at Filipino professionals and other workers flying to and from Ireland and South Africa. Roberto Hukom (2nd from left), Gulf Air Philippines country manager, congratulates Gulf Air Capt. Nijel Al Alawi on the maiden flight. They are flanked by flight purser Evangeline Francisco (left) and flight attendant Edna Querubin.

Pay scale to rise, fall for gov't workers

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THERE IS GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS for the 1.4 milLion-plus government workers. The Civil Service Commission says it is working on a new compensation system that is "benchmarked with the private sector."

But Civil Service Commission officials led by chair Karina Constantino-David are being quite cryptic about the proposed new measure, called "Fiscal Ways of the Wage," which must first be approved by Congress before it could take effect.

Under the draft bill, which David said the commission plans to submit to Congress soon, the pay scale of state workers will be "higher than the private sector at the lower level." However, it will be "lower than the private sector at the higher level," David said during a recent interview.

This means government rank-and-file employees will get more than their counterparts in the private sector but those in supervisory and higher levels will receive less compensation than private sector supervisors and managers.

David said she considered the compensation study one of the CSC's top accomplishments for 2005.

Civil servants last got a 5-percent across-the-board salary adjustment in mid-2001.

David would give no other details of the new draft legislation, saying the commission wanted "to package" the entire thing so that people can understand (the new compensation package).

David said she doubted the government could afford the commission's proposed compensation package but added it was necessary to table the measure just the same.

"Okay, but we have to say this is the way our wage structure should be. Then we try to approximate it," David said. "*Iba yun kesa sabihin* P500 across-the-board. *Kalokohan yun*. (That's different from just saying increase salaries by P500 across-the-board. That's crazy)."

Get on top of cases, labor arbiters urged

LABOR SECRETARY PATRICIA STO. TOMAS has urged voluntary arbitrators to take a more active role in resolving employment disputes, especially ones of national interest, so that harmony and productivity could be maintained in the workplace.

Speaking before members of the Tripartite Voluntary Arbitration Advisory Council (TVAAC), Sto. Tomas also said an impartial referee in labor cases was essential in cutting costs borne of long-drawn out legal proceedings.

"I would like to test the idea of having the TVAAC take on a more active role in the resolution of contentious issues and national interest disputes even in an advisory or mandatory capacity," she said at a recent seminar organized by the National Conciliation and Mediation Board, according to a Department of Labor and Employment statement.

Sto. Tomas said voluntary arbitrators should focus their efforts on disputes involving organized establishments.

Under the law, labor problems that are not settled through the regular grievance machinery are subjected to voluntary arbitration.

Voluntary arbitrators, who are usually designated beforehand by parties entering into a collective bargaining agreement, are authorized to hold hearings, receive evidence and take whatever action is necessary to effect a voluntary settlement between the parties involved. They resolve disputes involving unfair labor practices and bargaining deadlocks.

On the other hand, compulsory arbitration is entered into when a labor problem is seen as likely to lead to a strike or lockout.

Leila B. Salaverria

Women's group sets talk on gov't

THE PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT and federalism, their advantages and disadvantages, will be the topic of discussion during the 27th general assembly and Christmas party of the Concerned Women of the Philippines Inc. (CWP) at Club Filipino on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.

The CWP is one of the oldest women's non-government organizations in the country.

Prof. Edmund S. Tayao, a political science expert and academician, will discuss "The Current Crisis in Governance: A Blessing in Disguise in Philippine Democratization?" An open forum will follow.

The CWP board is headed by honorary chair Ma. Teresa F. Nieva and chair Elizabeth Lorenzana Diaz. Other officers are vice chair Pearl G. Doromal, secretary Luz Emilia T. Boayes, treasurer Gilda P. Bengzon, PRO Pann L. Page and board members Nelia A. Cortez, Ileana Regina F. Cruz, Evelyn L. Kilayko, Soiri Luz U. Nuyda and Esperanza B. Paterno.

For more information, Len-Len may be contacted through telefax No. 929-6188. The general assembly program overall chair is Dr. Lucita Ablaza-Villegas.

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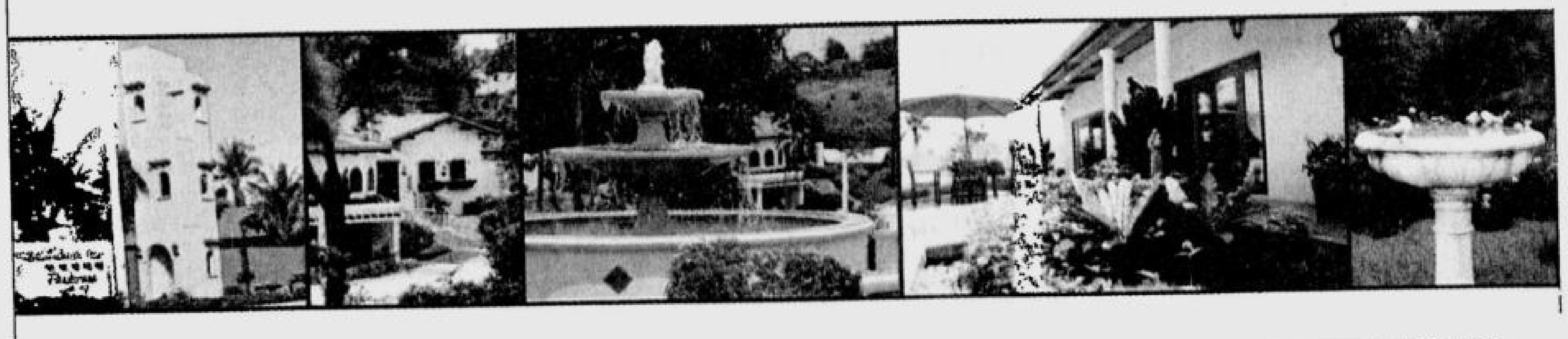

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GMA, Thaksin to settle issue at KL summit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A THAI-INSPIRED FUROR OVER officiating in the Southeast Asian Games could well be on their agenda when President Macapagal-Arroyo meets with her friend, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, on the sidelines of a regional summit in Malaysia this month.

"Definitely, they will have the chance to talk," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said on radio yesterday when asked about the possibility of Ms Arroyo raising the issue with Thaksin when the leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) gather in Kuala Lumpur on Dec. 12-14.

"At a proper time, our President and the Thai Prime Minister will talk. There will be a regional meeting in Kuala Lumpur but in the meantime, I think it's best that we concentrate on cheering our athletes," said Bunye.

Bunye said Malacañang still maintained its stand that the Philippines did not cheat in the Games.

"I think it's better if we concentrate our efforts to encouraging our athletes and just avoid any controversy because it diverts our concentration," Bunye said.

Bunye indicated that Malacañang was not setting the matter aside.

"This issue is being threshed out fairly and quietly by our sports officials in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, so let us not allow this issue to spoil the finale of the Games this weekend," Bunye said.

In seeming contrast to Malacañang's initial elation over the gold medals won by Filipino athletes, Bunye yesterday issued a more subdued press release.

"Let the spirit of sportsmanship and solidarity prevail even as we continue to cheer the excellence and fighting spirit of the Filipino athletes," he said in a statement.

SEEING IS BELIEVING: Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop (left) sees with his own eyes how the tennis finals match is won by Filipino Cecil Mamiit fair and square. Beside him are PSC chair Butch Jimenez and POC president Jose Cojuangco. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Boxers deliver more golds in RP drive for No. 1

From page A1

Outclassed), in the third round to the cheers of the packed crowd at the University of St. La Salle Coliseum in Bacolod City.

Bantam Joan Tipon then trounced Thai Tangtong Klongjam, 27-4, in a pivotal encounter that enabled the Filipinos to match their 8-gold output in the 1991 Manila SEAG.

Featherweight Joegen Ladon downed Athens Olympics silver medalist Wiprajoh Petchkun in the third round, but was too far behind to challenge, 33-22.

Genebert Besadre then trounced Indon Mistah Rifai Lubis for another RSC-O (23-3) victory in the third round of the lightweight final.

The Filipinos felt the wrath of the Thais in the heavier divisions.

Veteran Olympian Romeo Brin yielded his light-welterweight final, 28-23, against Thai Pachai Sayota and welter Mark Jason Melligen bowed to Non Boojumnong, 30-15.

Middleweight Reynaldo Galido was trailing Thailand's Olympic bronze medalist Suriya Prasathinpimai, 11-4, when their fight was stopped after the first round.

Jeering fans pelted the ring with coins, plastic bottles and food in protest of the scoring, forcing the referee to stop the fight and declare Suriya the winner.

Thai deputy prime minister

Egged on by the hometown crowd, Mamiit trounced top seeded Thai Danai Udomchoke, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, for the men's singles title in tennis in a finals match witnessed by visiting Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop.

In judo competition over in Cebu City, Ramirez prevailed in the men's 73-kg while Karen Ann Solomon triumphed in the women's 70-kg at Mandaue Coliseum.

With 100 gold medals to be contested today, the Vietnamese and the Thais have slight chances of overtaking the Filipinos, who are on the threshold of their first overall title after being foiled by the Indonesians by a single gold in the 1991 Manila SEA Games.

The Philippines ruled the team events but were bridesmaids in the individual competition of arnis at the Emilio Aguinaldo College Sports and Cultural Center.

Peter Kelvin Celis, Glenn Llamador and Nathan Ben Domiguez posted a score of 98.2 to beat the Vietnamese trio in the men's team anyo.

The women's team also prevailed through the efforts of Rochelle Quirol, Aireen Parong and Catherine Ballenas, again at the expense of the Vietnamese.

Vietnam, however, prevailed in the men's and women's individual anyo, leaving the Philippines' Reggie Sanchez (95.60) and Mylen Garson (93.30) with silvers.

Breaking 5-minute barrier

Cyclist Alfie Catalan sprinted away with the gold medal in the four-kilometer individual pursuit at the Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City.

Breaking the five-minute barrier for the first time, Catalan checked in at 4 minutes, 59.42 seconds, only .59 seconds ahead of Amiruddin Jamauluddi of Malaysia, to grab the gold and power the Philippines to second place in the team pursuit.

Michael Borenaga and Alfredo Trazona Jr. barged into the bodybuilding finals of the men's bantamweight (65 kg) and welterweight (75 kg) divisions, respectively.

Trazona will be up against Muslim of Indonesia, Kyaw San Maung of Myanmar, Cao Quoc Phu of Vietnam and Panupong Prapteep of Thailand in the event set at 1 p.m. at the GSIS Theater in Pasay City.

Borenaga will face Malaysian Sazali bin Abd Samad, a two-time world bodybuilding champion and a six-time Mr. Asia winner.

Alfonsito Aldanete hoisted 300 kg in the snatch and clean-and-jerk to snare the silver medal in the 94-kg class of the men's division at the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel. Thailand's Khunchai Nuchpum bagged the gold with a 346-kg total.

Leading in golf

In Sta. Rosa, Laguna, Juvic Pagunsan fired a course-record six-under-par 64 to pull away in the individual race and give the Philippines the men's team lead in golf competition at The Country Club.

Pagunsan, the individual champion in 2001 in Kuala Lumpur, was at 202 and eight strokes ahead entering today's final round.

Former caddies' champion Jay Bayron shot a 70 and Michael Bibat added a 71 for a day-best 205 total for the Filipinos, who were seven strokes ahead in the team competition.

The ladies' team got three-under 69s from Jayvie Marie Agojo and Frances Bondad but still trailed the Thai squad, powered by Sukintorn Saensradi's course-record 67, by three shots going into today's final round.

Agojo shot two eagles en route to a 69 to move on top of the ladies' individual play with a three-under par total of 141.

Men, women's marathon

Allan Ballester and Roy Vence are favored in the men's marathon while Christabel Martes and Jho-An Banayag are given even chances in the distaff side as Team Philippines tries to up its gold haul to double digits at the end of athletics hostilities at the Rizal Memorial oval.

Thailand is already assured of the overall athletics title with 11 golds against the Filipinos' eight.

'Our friendship remains'

From page A1

versy raised by Thaksin's remarks earlier this week about officiating during the Games.

In its statement apparently aimed at defusing the controversy, the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday said that Thaksin did not directly accuse the Philippines of favoring its athletes to win and blamed the media for taking the Prime Minister's remarks "out of context."

It said that Thaksin was merely stressing his opinion that "the spirit of participation among all athletes is more important than the winning of medals," adding that Thaksin's "remarks were not directed to any particular country."

But Surapong Suebwonglee, the chief government spokesperson in Bangkok, seemed to stoke the fire when he insisted in a statement on Friday that there were "serious problems" with the officiating in several games.

A good job

Suwat came bearing a different message.

Asked to comment on the Philippines' hosting job, he said: "I think they made a good effort."

Suwat, accompanied by Thailand Olympic Committee vice president Chaiyapak Siriwat, arrived for the traditional passing of the flag to the next host country—Thailand will host the Games in 2007.

Before the press conference, Suwat watched the men's tennis finals—and Mamiit gave him an idea of why the Philippines was on top of the medal heap.

Mamiit clearly showed he was the better man—and didn't have to depend on any hometown calls.

Skirting the issue

"The atmosphere (in the match) was very good," Suwat said. "I was greeted well by the Philippines."

Speaking in Thai, Suwat first addressed the Thai journalists covering the Games.

A Thai reporter from The Bangkok Post later said that Suwat, in his remarks to the Thai media, focused on Thailand's campaign for the overall championship.

"He said we're now number two and that the [medal tally] in the number 1, 2, 3 (positions) is quite close," the Thai reporter said. "There was no comment on the cheating issue. He just said he is also here because Thailand will be the next host and he's seeing how the Philippines organized the Games."

Politically driven

A pro-administration congressman offered one theory as to why Thaksin was making noises about supposed dubious officiating in the Games.

Thaksin is facing popular discontent at home and he wants to boost his image among Thais even at the expense of his Philippine neighbors, Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, chair of the House economics committee, suggested yesterday. *(See related story on Page A13.)*

Salceda, a supporter of Ms Arroyo, urged the Philippine government to insist on a public apology from Thaksin for his remarks, which provoked protests in congressional halls and in the streets.

Salceda said Thaksin's remarks were "clearly politically driven" and the Arroyo administration should show it was not such a pushover that the Thai prime minister could play political football with Philippine dignity.

Fight for RP dignity

"The Arroyo administration must fight to regain our national dignity in the international arena, especially for our OFWs (overseas Filipino workers), who lose face in their host countries from the ignominy of coming from a stealing nation and also for the sake of our future generations," said Salceda.

"Nothing less than a full public apology from Thaksin could redeem us from this international disgrace. Otherwise, we should thank Thaksin for speaking the truth about us," he said.

"Whew! What a galactic shame on the Filipino race, as if Garci is a national hero," Salceda added, referring to former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, who has been vilified for allegedly conspiring with Ms Arroyo to cheat during the 2004 elections.

Salceda said Thaksin's actions showed he was willing to jeopardize diplomatic ties with a close ally just so he could score political points at home.

"Thaksin merrily pursues his state of play through his spokesman. His fulminations are clearly politically driven. If he backs down, he gets a media backlash and his approval ratings further slide," he said.

"Better to lose an ally who counts little in his domestic struggles. So, he sticks to his guns," the congressman said. "Indeed, when logic fails, waving the flag is a handy survival trick. Thaksin badly needs this issue since he stands to gain a lot of sentimental surge of Thai indignation."

Kudos for RP

Thaksin's domestic troubles, including slower economic growth, have been played up in the foreign media, such as The Asian Wall Street Journal.

Philippine Olympic Committee chief Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday maintained that as far as sports officials from the countries participating in the Games were concerned, "they are congratulating us, we're okay, and I'm happy with that."

"Whatever other government officials want to say is up to them. Those people uttering statements outside [the field of sports] don't know what they are saying," Cojuangco told the INQUIRER.

"At the sports level, their (Thai) sports leaders here have apologized to me and I have accepted their apology. At the government level, I don't want to have anything to do with that," he said. *With a report from Volt Contreras*

Keon's reply to Thai gov't raps: We beat their princess

From page A1

in the 23rd SEA Games is no fluke.

"They're incensed. They're upset," said national training director Michael Keon of the athletes' sentiments following Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's statement that the SEA Games had degenerated into a race at all costs for gold medals.

Two days later, Thai government spokesperson Surapong Suebwonglee said there were serious problems with the judging in some events, adding that Bangkok would be a better host than Manila come SEA Games 2007.

Keon added that this was the first time a national leader spoke of cheating in the games in the middle of competitions.

"No reigning [national leader] has made a statement like that. It's not sportsmanlike to make a statement like that," Keon said.

Filipino athletes responded by showing their mettle.

Answer is on the field

"The other day, we beat the Thai princess Sirivannari Nariratana in badminton (women's doubles elimination round), 15-0, 15-2. Our reply is on the field," Keon said yesterday at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum in Quezon City.

When told that the Thais, in turn, beat the Philippine volleyball team, Keon said: "That's all right. We win some, we lose some. But we're 27 [gold] medals ahead of them (Thais). We're confident we'll win the country's first ever overall championship."

74 golds

The training director said the Philippines was on track to win its first ever overall title in the SEA Games. The country narrowly missed the feat in the 1991 Manila games when perennial powerhouse Indonesia edged out the host by a solitary gold medal.

"We're on track to win a minimum of 90 to a maximum of 128 gold medals. We already have 74 gold medals and we can win 40 more. One hundred ten gold medals is more than sufficient to win it all," Keon said.

He said the Thais were "simply sour-graping since we are usually the whipping boys but [this time] we trained hard and we had so many international exposures."

Keon said he was personally insulted by the Thai prime minister's tirade, since Keon himself supervised the athletes' training.

"I feel that the statement is an insult to the Filipino nation and to the Filipino athlete. It's not proper for the Thai prime minister to make that statement in Bangkok, in the middle of the competitions," said Keon, a veteran sportsman who ran the national sports program Gintong Alay in the late '70s until the early '80s.

"The proper forum is here in the Philippines where [the SEA Games federation] has its jury of appeals," he added.

Keon said there were a few protests like when Filipino trackster Edgardo Buenavista was disqualified in the 5,000-meter event for "deliberately impeding" the path of Thai runner Boonthung Srisung.

Srisung who came in second, was proclaimed the winner, followed by Filipino Julius Sermona, who was elevated to second place, while Thai runner Amnuay Tongmit placed third.

"What the Thai media didn't report was that Buenavista was disqualified [and Srisung won the gold]. They only reported the alleged cheating," Keon said.

When told that Thailand was reportedly focusing on the Asian indoor championships next year in Bangkok and had only sent their "second stringers" to the SEA Games, Keon said: "That's not true."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Little school with big dreams joins digital realm

From page A1

what the school had been offering for the past 11 years.

Apart from basic electronics, car repair, food technology, woodworking, dressmaking, etc., the students said, why not more subjects that would make them adept in the use of computers and other cutting-edge gizmos?

Manna from technoheaven

Handwritten on pad paper and signed by 21 students, the letter is now considered a momentous document at Erda, which last week was suddenly enabled to fulfill the students' request.

Funds, in one big heap, fell on the school's lap like manna from technoheaven: Erda is this year's recipient of a P3-million grant from electronic giant Samsung.

The grant is in line with Samsung's campaign in seven countries to narrow the "digital divide," or address the lack of computer literacy and access among the less fortunate.

The campaign covers the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and Singapore.

Awarded last Thursday by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp., the fat purse went to the rather obscure school that dreams of entering the digital realm from its humble corner of the metropolis.

Sponsored students

Founded in 1994, Erda Tech offers five-year high school vocational courses, and nonformal versions for older out-of-school youths aged 16 to 21.

Erda students are "sponsored," or are scholars of private citizens or companies that intend to hire them after graduation.

"Our students may come from the surrounding depressed areas, including those 'Homes along the Riles (railway shanties). But they are the kind who really want to finish their studies," said school administrator Ma. Wilhelmina Martinez.

The more indigent enrollees are known to go to class without benefit of breakfast or lunch, just to avoid missing a lesson.

"They would end up at the clinic, complaining of headaches, dizziness or stomach cramps, and we would later learn from the nurse that these were hunger-related," Martinez said.

But instead of stunting the students' ambitions, the daily hardships not only fueled their determination but also sharpened their eye for employment opportunities.

More IT subjects

Early last August, students from the nonformal courses "wrote us, through their class representatives, if it's possible for them to have more IT subjects, particularly computer maintenance and cell phone repair," Martinez recalled.

The INQUIRER obtained a copy of the letter written in Filipino.

It read in part: "We all know that many people, whether ordinary folk, businessmen or office workers, have cell phones. It has been reported, in fact, that up to seven million Filipinos already own cell phones, and almost all offices use computers. That's why such courses would be very helpful to us when we start looking for jobs."

The school administration cited the students' appeal when it submitted a project proposal last September in applying for Samsung's DigitAll Hope grant program, Martinez said.

Besting 32 organizations that also vied for the grant, Erda was selected by a panel of regional and national jurors for its envisioned project dubbed "ET goes IT."

The project basically fulfills the students' request for courses in cell phone repair and computer maintenance.

P25,000 per student

With the P3-million grant, Erda can now admit 200 more students on top of the annual average enrollment next school year, Martinez told the INQUIRER at the awarding rites.

It costs around P25,000 to sponsor a student per year, she said.

Part of the money will be spent on teacher training and, of course, acquiring new computers and other equipment, she added.

A giant "check" representing the grant was formally turned over to Erda Tech's founder, the French-born Fr. Pierre Tritz, by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. president and CEO Hyuck Jae Shim.

The 91-year-old Jesuit is a naturalized Filipino.

Present at the ceremony were two of the jurors, Sen. Mar Roxas and former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman. The other jurors included economist Solita Monsod and National Youth Commission chair Bam Aquino.

According to data provided by Samsung, only 4 percent of the Philippine population of 82 million have access to computers.

Only 8.4 percent of Asians are Internet users, compared to 67.4 percent in North America and 35.5 percent in Europe, the company said, citing 2005 figures from internetworldstats.com.

"This relatively low level of IT use and penetration rate places [certain] countries at a disadvantage in a rapidly networked world," Samsung said.

Beneficiaries

The first two DigitAll grantees for 2003 and 2004 were Don Bosco and Altiura Quaro foundations, respectively.

Through their Samsung-funded IT projects, some 200,000 Filipinos nationwide aged 15 to 24 developed computer skills.

At Erda, new equipment and training to be funded by the grant will benefit 1,500 students in the next five years, Martinez said.

Pass population bill, lawmakers urged

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BANAUE, IFUGAO—REPRODUCTIVE health advocates have urged administration and opposition lawmakers to set aside their differences and work together to pass a bill addressing the country's increasing population, reproductive health problems and child mortality.

In a forum here on Wednesday, representatives of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD) said the Arroyo administration should focus on pushing House Bill No. 3773 or the Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005.

According to the House of Representatives' website, the bill sets in place a national policy that assures "adequate and continuing information on reproductive health and a full range of family planning methods (excluding abortion)."

Chi Vallido, deputy executive director of the Philippine NGO Council for Health, Environment and Development (PNGOC), said the bill's supporters feared HB 3773 might become a casualty of the squabble between lawmakers, especially after the bitter fight over the derailed impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Vallido said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, a supporter of Ms Arroyo's, was the principal author of HB 3773, while many of the bill's supporters were from the opposition, like Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales.

"We really do not know what is going to happen, but we have to work above [partisan politics] and look at the [importance of the] bill," Vallido said.

Faith Bacon, program manager of PLCPD, said the government should stop its opposition to the use of modern family planning methods and endorse a national policy on reproductive health.

"We reiterate our call for the government to adopt a clear and efficient policy such as the HB 3773 in order to restrain the increasing population [because] the absence of such policy had caused birth related deaths and seemingly unmanageable population rates," Bacon said.

Bacon said Dr. Zahidul Huque, United Nations Population Fund representative to the Philippines, had noted that if there was no efficient policy adopted to restrain the increasing population (at an annual growth rate of 2.36 percent), the Philippines' current population of 84 million would likely double in the next 25 to 29 years.

Huque, she said, cited the country's annual population growth of roughly two million as the highest in Southeast Asia.

Vallido said they had started asking local government officials to support HB 3773 amid the delay in the progress of deliberations on the bill.

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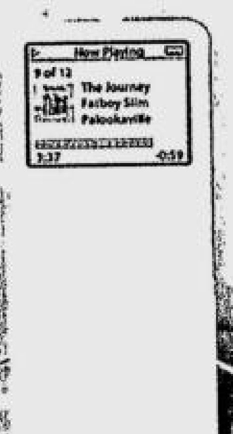

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Iraq kidnappers threaten to kill hostages

BAGHDAD—THE KIDNAPPERS OF FOUR CHRISTIAN peace activists threatened to kill the hostages unless all prisoners in US and Iraqi detention centers are released, according to a videotape broadcast Friday by Al-Jazeera television.

The tape showed what the broadcaster said were two Canadian hostages. An American and a Briton are also being held. The kidnappers gave the two governments until Thursday, Dec. 8 to meet their demands, according to Al-Jazeera quoting a statement delivered with the tape.

The Canadians were shown eating from plates of what appeared to be Arabic sweets. In a second clip, the British and American hostages were shown to talking to the camera but no audio was transmitted. All four men appeared frightened.

The hostages called on the US and British governments to withdraw from Iraq, Al-Jazeera reported, quoting a statement from the kidnappers, who earlier identified themselves as the Swords of Righteousness Brigade, a previously unknown group.

The corner of the video showed two crossed black swords and the name of the insurgent group written in red Arabic script—the same emblem shown in an earlier video of the hostages.

The group has claimed that the kidnapped men, from the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams, were spies working under the cover of peace activists. The group denied spying.

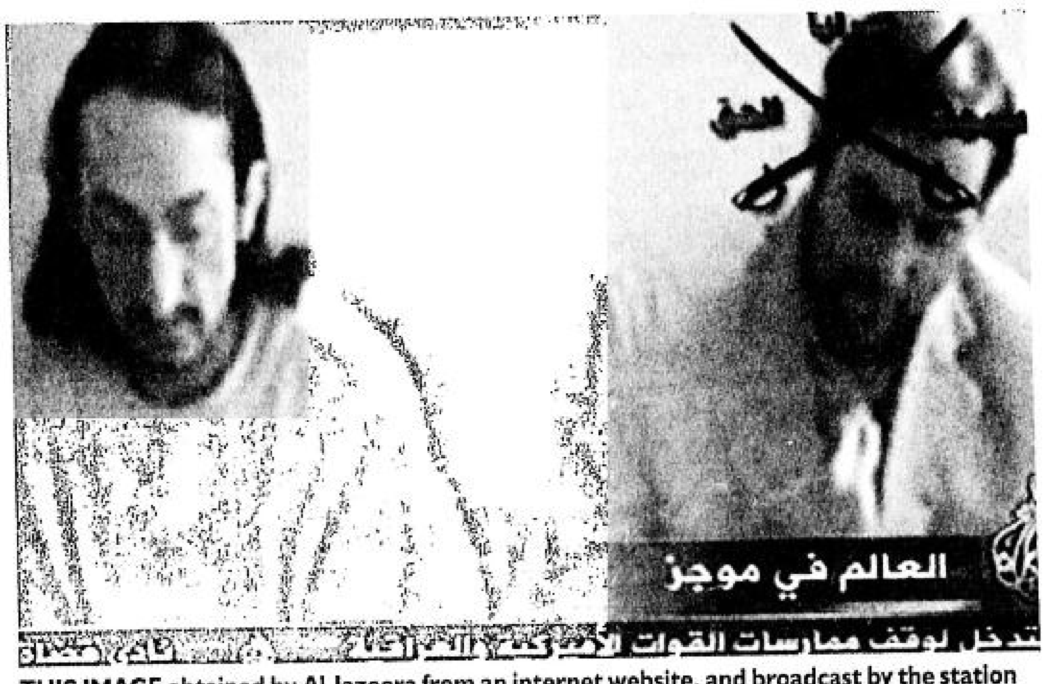
Greg Rollins, a Canadian member of Christian Peacemaker Teams, said news of the death threat was disturbing.

"It's a bit of a shock," said Rollins, who had not yet seen the new video. He said he hoped the kidnappers would respond to messages of support from Muslims and other Arabs for the group, which opposes the war in Iraq.

"Hopefully they will continue to read those things and get a positive idea of what we do here and who my teammates are."

The activists were seized Nov. 26 near Baghdad University. A car blocked their car, gunmen got out, threw the driver and translator out and drove away with the four Westerners, security officials said Thursday. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to talk to the media.

The men were kidnapped at the same place where Giuliana Sgrena, a reporter for the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto, was seized Feb. 4 and held for a month by a group calling itself Mujahedeen Without Borders. That group had not been known before and has not been heard from since, but may be using a different name.



THIS IMAGE obtained by Al-Jazeera from an internet website, and broadcast by the station Friday shows Canadians Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, left, and James Loney, 41. AP

The Christian activists—Tom Fox, 54, of Clear Brook, Virginia; Norman Kember, 74, of London; James Loney, 41, of Toronto; and Harmeet Singh Sooden, 32, of Canada—had been repeatedly warned by Iraqi and Western security officials that they were taking a grave risk by moving about Baghdad without bodyguards. *AP*

Executions revive death penalty debate

SINGAPORE—THE EXECUTIONS OF an Australian heroin trafficker in Singapore, and a murderer in the United States—the 1,000th since capital punishment was resumed there in 1977—revived international debate about the death penalty.

Advocates in countries with the death penalty said it was a form of "shock therapy" that provided an effective deterrent, while opponents said it was a cruel punishment that ignored hope for rehabilitation of a criminal.

Malaysia's Foreign Minister supported Singapore's decision to execute drug trafficker Nguyen Tuong Van.

"The death penalty meted out by the Singapore court is in accordance with the laws. We cannot interfere in what another country is doing," Syed Hamid Albar told The Associated Press.

Vietnam-born Nguyen Tuong Van, 25, was hanged before dawn Friday despite numerous appeals from Australian leaders for his life to be spared. He received a mandatory death sentence after being caught with 396 grams (14 ounces) of heroin at the city-state's Changi Airport in 2002, en route from Cambodia to Australia.

His execution triggered an outcry in Australia, which scrapped the death penalty in 1973. Prime Minister John Howard warned Nguyen's execution would harm links between the people of Australia and Singapore.

Hours after Nguyen's execution, a double murderer who said he didn't want to be known as a number became the 1,000th person executed in the United States since capital punishment resumed 28 years ago.

Kenneth Lee Boyd, who gunned down his estranged wife and father-in-law 17 years earlier, died after receiving a lethal injection in North Carolina.

Law enforcement officials said justice had been served, but activists said they hoped his death would boost efforts to abolish the death penalty.

"Maybe Kenneth Boyd won't have died in vain, in a way, because I believe the more people think about the death penalty and are exposed to it, the more they don't like it," said Stephen Dear, executive director of People of Faith Against the Death Penalty. *AP*

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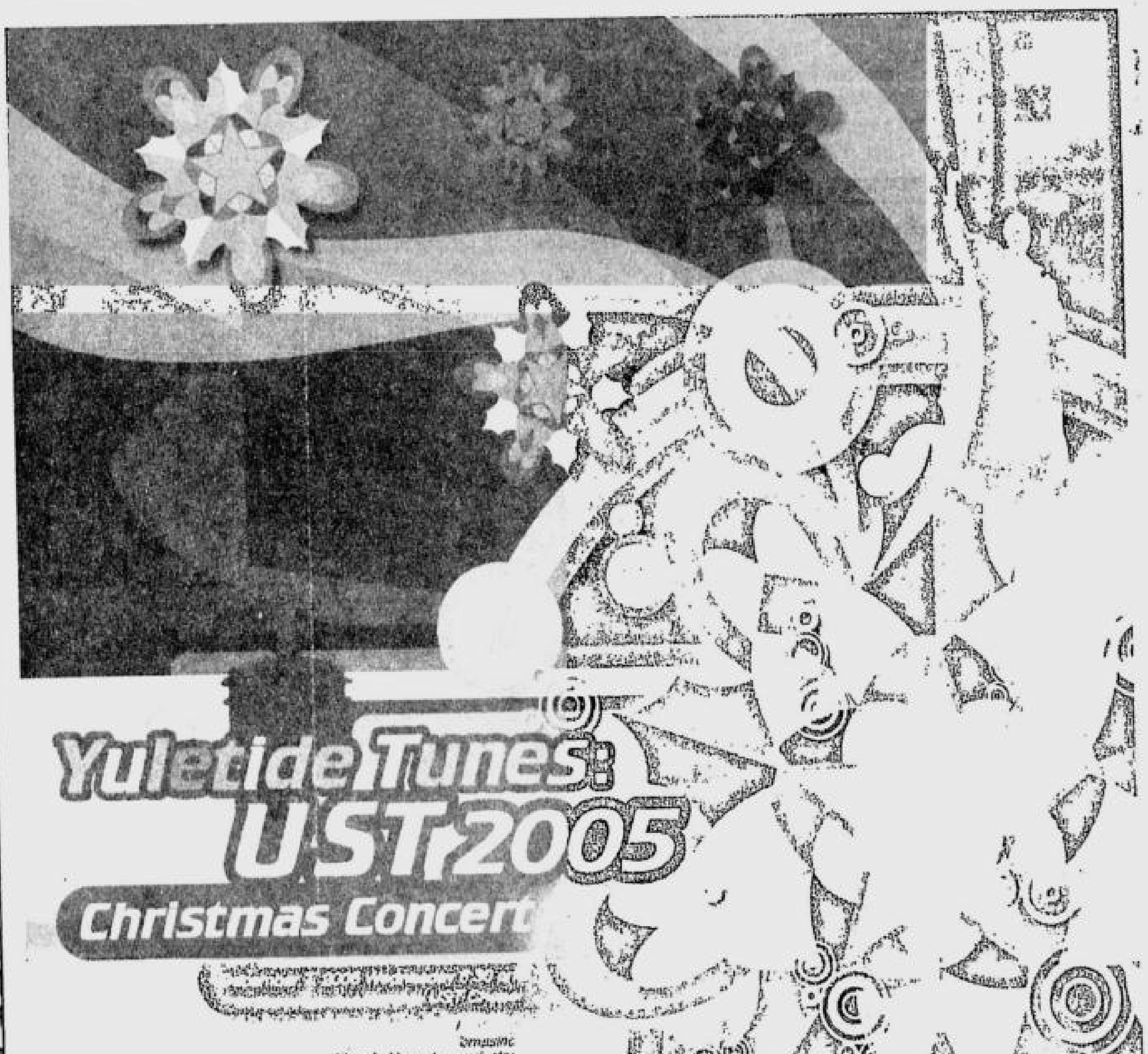

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Torture still widespread in China, says UN

BEIJING—A UNITED NATIONS RIGHTS investigator said Friday torture was still widespread in China and accused authorities of trying to obstruct his work on a historic fact-finding mission.

"Torture is on the decline but it is still widespread," Manfred Nowak, the UN Human Rights Commission's special rapporteur on torture, told a press briefing at the end of his 12-day trip.

"There is much that still needs to be done, there is a need for many more structural reforms." Torture methods cited in a press release at the end of his trip included use of electric shock batons, cigarette burns, submersion in pits of water or sewage and exposure to conditions of extreme heat or cold.

Some techniques were apparently so widespread that they had generated a special terminology, such as "exhausting an eagle," where prisoners are forced to stand on a tall stool and are then beaten to the point of exhaustion.

Nowak said Chinese authorities had closely monitored and obstructed his work, which included interviews conducted in Beijing as well as in the restive regions of Tibet and Xinjiang.

"There were serious incidents of obstructing my mission by the ministries of state and public security," he added.

"There was frequent surveillance of my interviews that I had outside prison with victims' family members," Nowak said.

He and his team were not allowed to bring photographic and electronic equipment into the prisons and their visits to correctional facilities were limited to the working hours of the staff.

"As the authorities were generally announced an hour in advance, the visits could not be considered to have been strictly 'unannounced'," the press release said.

Nowak said he had also received reports that victims' family members were prevented from meeting him as they were either put under house arrest, stopped physically from seeing him, or simply intimidated.

While interviewing prison detainees, Nowak said he observed "a palpable level of fear and self-censorship," he said.

"Unfortunately, a number of people did not wish to talk to me, which I regretted," he said.

However, the UN envoy was allowed to speak to any detainee he wished to meet. "Not one single request was actually refused by the prison authorities," he said.

Nowak also highlighted the poor treatment of people awaiting death sentences.

China does not have a "death row" in the usual sense of the word, but facilities where people sentenced to death await the results of their appeals. Beijing's pre-trial facility currently housed 50 inmates, he said.

As soon as they are convicted, they are handcuffed and put in shackles, allegedly to prevent them from escaping, he said.

"It's an additional inhuman and degrading punishment. It's not for precautionary measures," he said. "Nobody there can actually flee." Police in Tibet and Xinjiang have engaged in long-standing crackdowns on separatists, and human rights groups regularly report widespread abuse of detainees there.

Beijing-based civil rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng told AFP earlier that he was followed and monitored closely by security agents when he was meeting UN rights officials who came to China with Nowak.

At the beginning of his trip last month, Novak praised China's leaders for acknowledging the widespread abuse of prisoners in the nation's jails, saying there was a growing awareness that improvement was needed.

Nowak came to China after receiving government assurances it would cooperate with him and allow him unannounced visits to prisons and private talks with prisoners.

The visit by Nowak, who is the first special rapporteur on torture to visit China, comes after years of negotiations between the UN and China on allowing unfettered access to prisons, private talks with detainees and no retaliation against prisoners.

In the early 1990s a UN special rapporteur on arbitrary detention visited prisons in Tibet. But prisoners were punished for what they told the investigator, rights group say. *AFP*

LONGEST GINGERBREAD
Chefs from a local hotel in Hong Kong prepare to cut up a record attempt claim for "The longest gingerbread in the World." The 23-meter long gingerbread's ingredients include 150kg of sugar, 60kg of eggs, 120kg of flour and 60kg of icing sugar. AFP

Thousands set to rally for full democracy in HK

HONG KONG—TENS OF THOUSANDS OF protesters are expected to march in Hong Kong's streets on Sunday to demand full democracy in the former British territory that's now part of China.

The protest comes as public discontent mounts against the government's latest proposal for political reforms—changes that many believe don't go far enough. Pro-democracy lawmakers want the government to give a timeline for when voters will be given the right to directly elect the city's leader and entire legislature.

Analysts predict Sunday's march will draw between 50,000 and 100,000 people. The turnout will be closely watched by the Hong Kong and Chinese governments, both of whom have gone on a public relations offensive to dampen enthusiasm for the protest.

Beijing is eager to maintain stability in Hong Kong, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997. Two massive pro-democracy marches helped trigger the territory's first leadership change since the handover. Both protests—in 2003 and 2004—drew half a million people demanding the right to pick their leader and all lawmakers.

In the past few weeks, both the pro-democracy and the pro-Beijing camps have spent lavishly to take out prominent newspaper advertisements in a bid to influence public opinion and Sunday's turnout.

On Saturday, an ad signed by 20 pro-democracy lawmakers reading "Fight for democracy, make history" and "Hong Kong people cannot be kept waiting definitely" was posted in many major papers.

The government's political reform package calls for doubling the size of the 800-member committee that picks Hong Kong's leader. The reforms also propose expanding the 60-member legislature. Half the members are directly elected, while the other half are selected by interest groups.

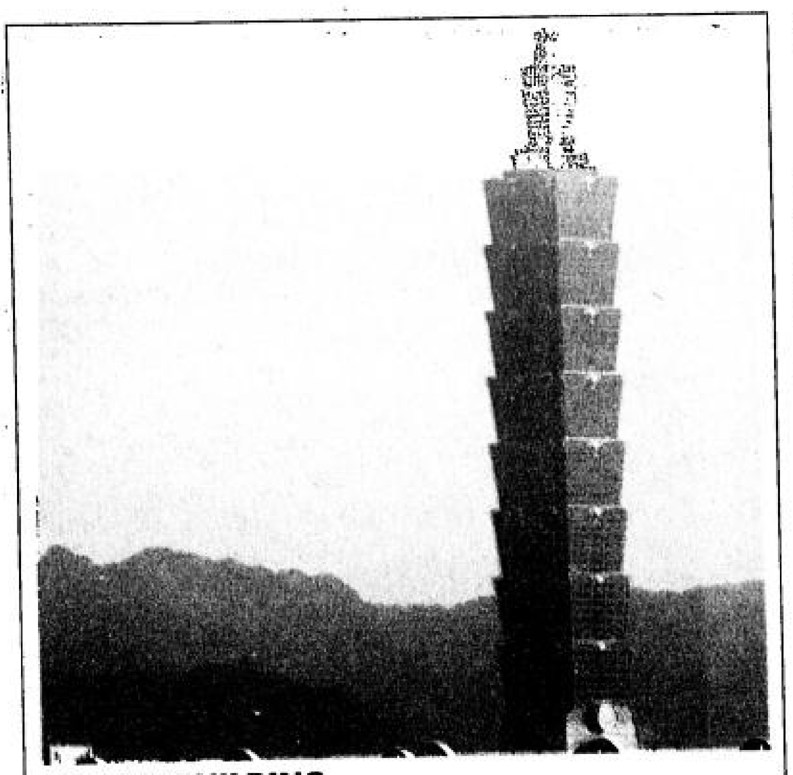
In a rare televised address days ahead of the planned protest, Hong Kong leader Donald Tsang warned that opposing the reform package would result in no democratic progress. But critics accused the leader of trying to pressure the public against marching.

"Donald Tsang uses scare tactics," read a front-page headline in the mass-market Apple Daily newspaper a day after Tsang's speech.

Beijing also took the unusual step of inviting prominent Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers to discuss political reforms with senior Chinese officials in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen.

After Friday's meeting, Qiao Xiaoyang, deputy secretary general of the Chinese legislature's standing committee, stood firm on the moderate reform package but encouraged discussion of a timetable for democratization. *AP*

MAJOR PRIZE
DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES



TALLEST BUILDING
The 508-meter Taipei 101, the world's tallest building, towers over Taiwan's capital. REUTERS

Thaksin accused of corruption

BANGKOK—AN OUTSPOKEN PUBLISHER has stirred up the biggest political crisis facing Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in his nearly five years in power, lashing him with allegations of corruption, abuse of power and disrespect for the country's esteemed monarchy.

Sondhi Limthongkul is seeking to oust a man with whom he has had a love-hate relationship for more than a decade. For two months, he has hurled criticisms in front of receptive live audiences and via Webcasts—made necessary after a government-owned television station yanked his broadcast talk show off the air.

Sondhi has set up a showdown with Thaksin for Dec. 9, when he has issued a long-shot call for half-a-million people to turn out in Bangkok's main park. He hopes to demonstrate just how discontented people are with Thaksin and draw together the disparate elements of opposition into a political movement capable of unseating him.

Skeptics have questioned Sondhi's motives but seem impressed by his ability to withstand Thaksin's attempts to shut him up with libel suits.

Thaksin's huge majority in Parliament has given him an ability to shed serious crises. These include persistent allegations of cronyism and a failure to curb a Muslim insurgency in the country's south that has cost more than 1,100 lives in the past two years.

The 58-year-old Sondhi, whose Manager Media Group includes several newspapers, magazines, Websites and production houses, said he began speaking out after becoming dismayed by what he described as "rampant" government corruption.

"I'm not a crusader and I'm not a hero, I am just a normal, common journalist who wants the public to have the freedom to news and I want the press to have freedom of expression," the US-educated Sondhi told The Associated Press in an interview.

Thaksin, his critics charge, uses his power and wealth from his family's telecommunication empire to cow or buy off much of the media.

Thaksin, 56, whose party won a landslide reelection victory in February, has responded to Sondhi's harangues with half-a-dozen lawsuits seeking billions of baht in damages for defamation. He says it's a matter of defending his good name.

Sondhi launches most of his broadsides at rallies that have been held Friday evenings in a park next to the main business district, ensuring turnouts in the tens of thousands. Many are merely curious, but crowds that size haven't been seen since Thailand's last military government collapsed under street protests in 1992.

"I come because I want to hear from both sides so that I know who is right or wrong," said office worker Chai Wiwat at a recent rally.

His followers include liberals dismayed at what they view as Thaksin's authoritarian tendencies, right-wing royalists, opponents of privatization and investors upset with the Thai stock market's recent feeble performance.

"I'm not leading the people," Sondhi said. "The people are looking up at me as the only one in Thailand to shed some light for them regarding some misdeeds of this government." *AP*

Astronomers in Chile discover new planet

SANTIAGO—A TEAM OF FRENCH AND Swiss astronomers working at the La Silla observatory in Chile discovered a planet about the size of Neptune located some 20.5 light years from our solar system, the European Southern Observatory said on Wednesday.

The still unnamed planet is located in the Libra constellation and has about 17 times the mass of the Earth. It takes only 5 days to complete its orbit around a star that has about a third the mass of the Earth's sun, the press release said.

The star G1 581 is a red dwarf, a small, cool, faint star that is the most common type in our galaxy. Since 80 of the 100 stars closest to the sun are red dwarfs, astronomers are interested in discovering if they have planets orbiting them.

"Our discovery could mean that planets orbiting small stars are common," said Xavier Delfosse, a member of France's Grenoble Astrophysics Laboratory, said in a statement. "This tells us that red dwarfs are key in the search for exoplanets," referring to planets circling other stars.

Of the currently known 170 planets circling other stars, only five of them are smaller than this newly discovered planet.

The discovery was made possible by a high precision instrument called HARPS that astronomers installed in the telescope of the observatory in north central Chile. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

China coal mine deaths

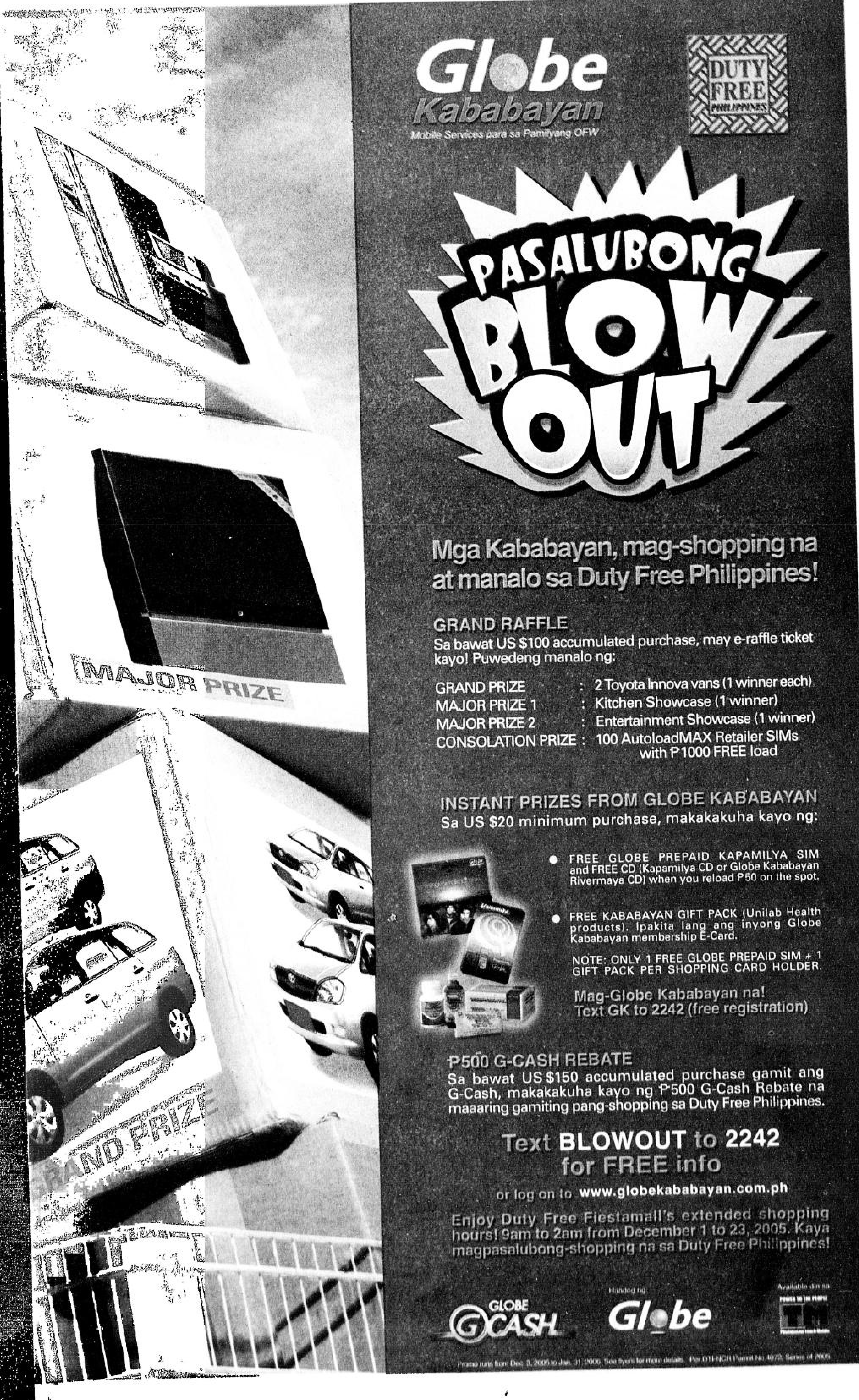
BEIJING—Sixteen workers were killed and 42 others remained trapped in two separate coal mine accidents in China, state media reported Saturday, as the toll from a massive mine blast in the northeast rose to 169. Rescuers on Saturday were trying to reach the 42 workers trapped in a flooded mine in central Henan province, said reports from the national work safety agency and state media. A total of 76 miners were working underground when the Sigou coal mine in Shisi township, Xin'an county, flooded at 11:40 p.m. (1540 GMT) Friday, the State Administration of Work Safety said on its website. Thirty-four workers escaped, it said, revising a previous report by the Xinhua state news agency that said 48 workers had been underground and just six managed to flee. *AFP*

UAE founding anniversary

ABU DHABI—UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan traced the path which the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has taken en route to economic prosperity and a good standing in the community of nations, on the occasion of the UAE's 34th founding anniversary or National Day last Dec. 2. "In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful, my dear countrymen and women, today we celebrate the 34th anniversary of a glorious day in the history of our nation. On Dec. 2, 1971, we started the march toward these great achievements that have covered all parts of our dear nation," Sheikh Khalifa said. "It was the day that saw the unity of our words and determination giving birth to the UAE and all what we enjoy today: political stability, strong economy, educated and trained manpower resources, progress, prosperity and security, as well as diplomatic, trade, cultural and humanitarian relations which extend to all countries of the world." The UAE president pointed out that through the years, the UAE has established a sound regional and international ties based on vision, moderation, balanced policy, support for the truth and justice, and non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

Indon bird flu death

JAKARTA—Indonesia has had its eighth human death due to bird flu confirmed by a Hong Kong laboratory affiliated with the World Health Organization, a senior Health Ministry official said on Saturday. Hariadi Wibisono told Reuters the results on the 25-year-old woman, who died earlier this week, made her Indonesia's eighth confirmed death from the H5N1 strain of bird flu. "We got the result this morning. She was positive," said Wibisono, who heads a department charged with eradicating animal-borne diseases. Officials have previously said the woman had contact with dead chickens before being admitted to a Jakarta hospital. Another five people have been confirmed to have contracted the virus in Indonesia but have survived. *Reuters*



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OPINION

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All flags flying

EDITORIAL

ALL BUT ONE OF THE LAST 100 EVENTS IN THE Southeast Asian Games will be contested today. (By tradition, tomorrow's marathon brings the biennial meet to its end.) Strictly speaking, it is still possible for either Thailand or Vietnam to overhaul the Philippines' overall lead, as measured by gold medals. But it doesn't matter.

Even if the country loses its chance to win overall honors for the first time since joining the regional sports competition some 30 years ago, we would still look upon the 2005 edition of the SEA Games as successful beyond our expectations.

At the most basic level, the Games were successful because we pulled it off. The lack of funds and the politicized nature of much of Philippine sports had cast a pall over the preparations. Even the decision (fortuitous, as it turned out) to host many of the events in other cities was driven by financial and practical considerations: There wasn't enough time or money to rehabilitate or upgrade the usual venues in Metro Manila.

The sideshow over the basketball scandal—a serious sports dispute and an unfortunate series of decisions had led to the withdrawal of international recognition, thus denying us the ability to host any international basketball tournament—had even threatened, in this basketball-besotted country, to overshadow the main event.

The possibility of terrorist attacks was also all too real; the heightened military offensive against the Abu Sayyaf in November and the newfound aggressiveness of the New People's Army (see its recent ambushes) raised concerns of a possible terrorism-fueled backlash, directed against the Games.

So when the curtain finally rose on the 11-country meet, it was a relief simply to see the Games get underway, safely and memorably. (The opening ceremonies were distinguished by the Filipino's creative gifts, about which not even a politically besieged Thai prime minister can argue.) Relief quickly turned to amazement as the country's gold medals started piling up. The closest we had ever come to winning the overall medal race was in 1991, the last time we hosted the meet, and that year we never enjoyed the lead.

But again, even if we only duplicate that year's feat, the 2005 Games would still be a resounding triumph.

One good gauge is fundamental: the athletes' own performance in the regional meet. Aside from countless examples of "personal best" performances, many national records were set, and several Southeast Asian records were broken.

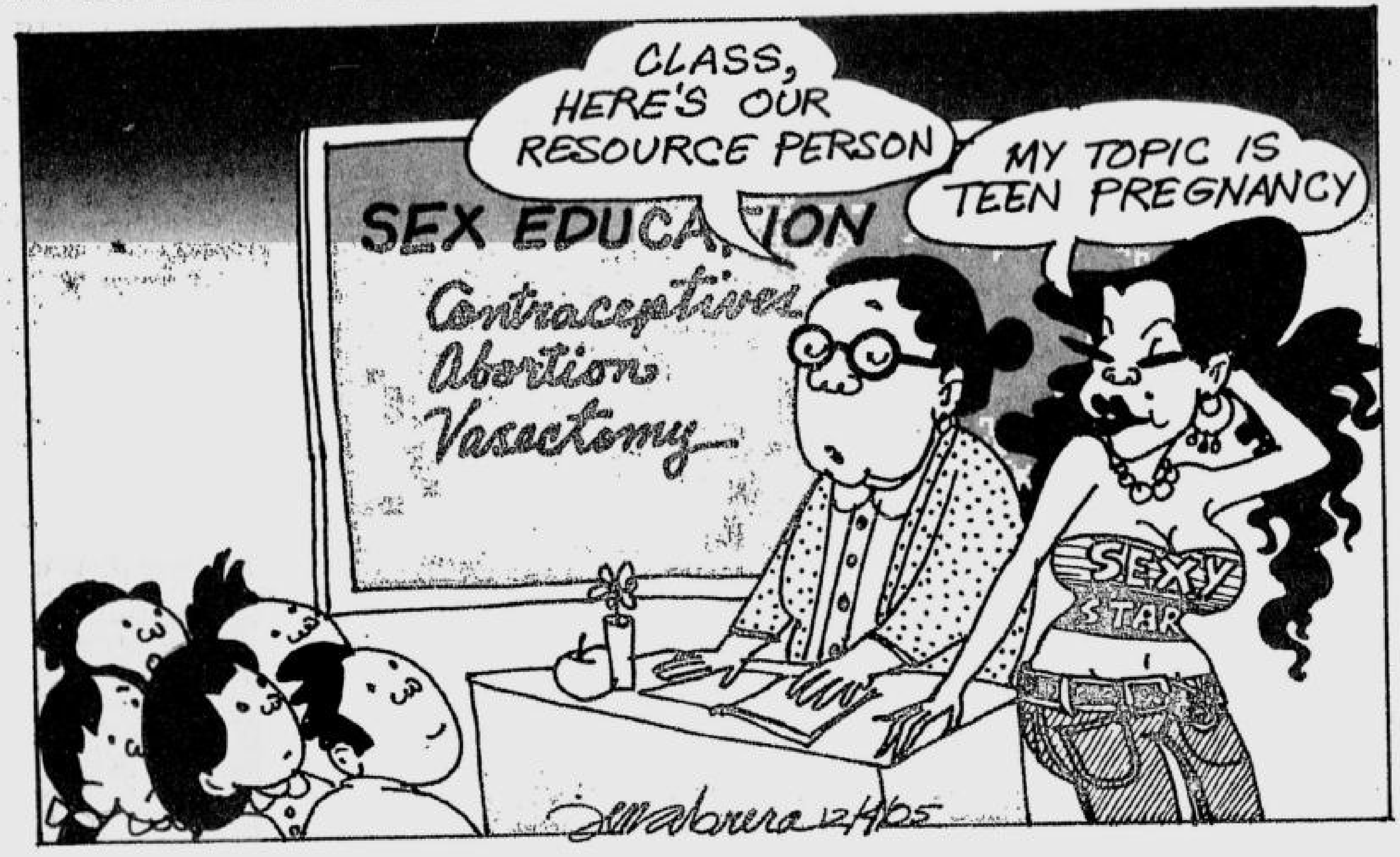
Another measure is the sterling performance of some of the region's best athletes, including Singapore's Tao Li and Joscelyn Yeo, Malaysia's Ben Leong and Kimbeley Yap (who had switched from swimming to triathlon), Indonesia's Taufik Hidayat (the reigning Olympic singles badminton champion), and Thailand's Rina Dewi Puspita and Danai Udomchoke.

Still another index: the packed crowds that gathered to see the games, especially in soccer-obsessed Bacolod. Loud and zealous for the home team, they were never boorish toward foreign players.

Another important measure: After the Thai premier all but accused the Philippines of cheating in the Games, everyone, but Filipinos above all, took a closer look at the results. If conclusive proof had been established that cheating was systematic, we are sure that the public, by and large, would have withdrawn its support for the Games.

What happened, instead, was that conclusive proof of the other sort, showing that the Games' results were aboveboard, accumulated. Even the example the Thai government spokesperson offered, of a clear example of cheating by Filipinos, showed he was dealing in half-truths. It is true that, after a valiant struggle, Eduardo Buenavista happened to block the path of the Thai runner in the closing stages of the 5,000 run. But the Thai government spokesperson failed to point out that, very soon after the event, Buenavista was disqualified, and the gold medal awarded to Thailand.

So public goodwill about the Games is actually stronger today than before Thailand's unfair accusations; it had been tested by serious doubts. Like the unforgettable performances of many Filipino athletes, including triple gold medalists Shiela Mae Perez (diving), Benjie Tolentino (rowing), and Miguel Molina (swimming), the public too was pushed to the limit, but came out with all flags flying.



Who will be the next Chief Justice?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE PHILIPPINES IS FACING A CHANGE IN the Supreme Court with the retirement of Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. at age 70 on Dec. 20. The Judicial and Bar Council has reportedly recommended as his successor any of the five ranking incumbent associate justices of the High Tribunal. They are in order of seniority Justices Reynato S. Puno, Artemio V. Panganiban, Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

Not one of the nominees is an outsider, which means that the JBC (which is under the supervision of the Supreme Court) believes that the succession to the premier position in the Court should be limited to its members. They allow a deviation from the seniority rule, but among themselves only, excluding all interlopers from outside their august chambers.

The seniority rule is not mandated by the Constitution but is observed only as a tradition. This was initially not followed in the case of Secretary Victorino Mapa, who was pulled out of the Cabinet to succeed Chief Justice Cayetano Arellano in 1920. President Marcos gave Senior Associate Justice Claudio Teehankee a double bypass during the dictatorship when he appointed two other justices ahead of him upon Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando's retirement in 1985.

Mapa did not preempt then Senior Associate Justice Florentino Torres because the latter was only third in rank when the two of them, together with Cayetano Arellano, were appointed to the Supreme Court in 1901. Mapa was transferred to Governor General Francis Burton Harrison's Cabinet in 1913 but was returned to the Supreme Court seven years later as Chief Justice. Torres, who resigned out of *amor propio*, must have been considered too old at 78 for the office compared to the younger Mapa (who, however, died earlier).

As for Teehankee, who was "the bright light in the dark night" in the Supreme Court under martial law, there was no way Marcos would have preferred him to the cooperative Felix Makasiar and then to the more steadfast Ramon Aquino as Chief Justice. Teehankee graciously conceded the despot's prerogative and was later granted his deserved promotion only after Edsa I by President Corazon Aquino. Jose Yulo served briefly as Chief Justice during the Japanese Occupation, but that was during another abnormal time.

Since the reestablishment of the present government in 1986, there has been no deviation so far from the seniority rule in the selection of the successor to the Chief Justice. Thus, Teehankee was succeeded by Pedro L. Yap, who was succeeded by Marcelo B. Fernan, who was succeeded by Andres R. Narvasa, who was succeeded by Hilario G. Davide Jr. All the successors were then the next in rank. (An interesting historical tidbit is the case of Chief Justice Manuel V. Moran, who retired from the Court in 1951 to serve as Ambassador to Spain and the Vatican but later hoped, but vainly, to go back to the Court only as an associate justice.)

Arguably, better qualified persons among the incumbent members of the Supreme Court, or from outside, could have been chosen but were barred by the restored seniority rule. It is different in the United States. Justices Holmes, Brandeis and Cardozo are among the great American jurists who never got to be chief justice of the Federal Supreme Court. By contrast, there is Chief Justice Earl Warren, to take but one example, who, as a former governor of California without previous judicial experience, led that Court in promoting racial equality in American public schools with the leading case of Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 349 US 294, that he wrote.

There was talk before that President Macapagal-Arroyo was intending to choose a rank newcomer to the Court or even an outsider from her favorite law office, but this is not possible now unless she rejects the original list and asks the JBC to submit other nominations. This is not likely, though, unless she chooses to provoke the anger of the Supreme Court and public opinion as well.

The top contender under the seniority rule is Senior Associate Justice Puno, whose juristic gifts have been honed first in the Court of Appeals and now in the Supreme Court where he has been sitting since 1993. The best hope of Justice Panganiban, an eminent and puissant rival as second in rank, is that he may be given the chance to be Chief Justice ahead of Puno for, after all, he can serve only a meager one year before his compulsory retirement on Dec. 7, 2006. Justice Puno may then take over for more than three years until May 17, 2010, when he himself turns 70 and must also retire.

President Arroyo owes both of them a debt of gratitude for their respective roles in transferring the presidency to her in 2001. Panganiban, together with Davide, arranged her oath-taking as presidential successor in the presence of the other justices of the Supreme Court. Puno wrote the outstanding decision in the leading case of Estrada v. Arroyo, 353 SCRA 452, where he incisively sustained her ascension. We can only hope she will not have to take the whole period of 90 days as fixed by the Constitution to fill the position to be vacated by Chief Justice Davide this month.

Going straight

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

SOMEONE RECOMMENDED TO ME THE "pasta" diet in order to lose weight. Just walk "pasta" the bakery, "pasta" the ice creamery, "pasta" the buffet table, and just keep walking "pasta" and "pasta."

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 1, 1-8), John the Baptist proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths." Advent is the time to turn right and go straight in all our ways and dealings. Is there anything you need to straighten out in your life? Now is the time to do it. Not tomorrow, not at Christmas, not in the New Year, but now. "If today you hear His voice, harden not your heart."

* * *

The greatness of John the Baptist lies in the fact that he was focused on his mission. He had the ability to walk "pasta" whatever obstacles that came his way. He was not burdened by any personal ambition or agenda. Neither was he indebted to any person or group. He was free to proclaim God's word because he himself was free from sin and wrongdoing. People who steal, cheat and lie are imprisoned by their own misdeeds. Yes, people who prosper by evil ways are not to be envied. Deep inside, they know the wrongs they have done. They are haunted and burdened by their sins, and they know that sooner or later, their sins will be uncovered and discovered.

* * *

John the Baptist had neither illusions nor delusions as to who he was. He was aware and clear that he was just a voice crying out in the desert and that someone mightier than him was to come after him. This deep awareness that there was someone or something greater than himself made John the Baptist a humble, dedicated servant of the Lord. Public servants should learn from John the Baptist—they are not greater than the people they claim to serve. As a consequence, they cannot disregard the people's will, they cannot manipulate the truth, and they cannot kill the people's hopes and dreams.

* * *

I wish John the Baptist were with us today in flesh and blood to boldly proclaim the Lord's message to our people especially to our government, military, and even to our religious leaders. He was a prophet who was not afraid to proclaim the truth, no matter the cost. Where have all the prophets gone? Are there no more brave hearts in the present day and in our time? Is truth now just a commodity that money can buy?

* * *

Advent is the time not only for repentance but also for hope. We must not lose hope for our salvation is near at hand. The Lord promised that, in every age and time, He would raise up prophets and leaders who would proclaim His message and pursue His agenda. And he has given his assurance that victory belongs to the righteous. Goodness will triumph over evil in the end and soon. *Malapit na!*

* * *

There is a story I heard about a little boy who wanted a bike. So he prayed to God for a bike, but no bike came. Perceiving that God operated in some other way, he stole a bike, and then just prayed for forgiveness. I heard that the little boy is now a politician who continues to steal, and continues as well to ask for forgiveness, but goes on stealing anyway. In many ways, we all think that we can manipulate even God in our lives. When will all the lying end? Hopefully, when we lie at our deathbed, all the lying and greed by then shall have truly ended. Amen.

* * *

True repentance must bear fruit in our daily lives. This firm resolve to turn right and go straight must lead to a more peaceful, and more loving life. Otherwise, all our "I am sorry's" are just empty words, meant for appeasement and display. Let us all turn to God in humility and sincerity, and ask for the grace of true and lasting conversion.

* * *

I was in Baguio recently upon the invitation of Rotarians Budee Sison and Oyan Villanueva. I would like to borrow the Rotarian "4-Way Test" of whatever we think, say or do: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? Note that the first question is about the truth, and the last question is about benefits, in that order.

* * *

Dec. 8 is the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. May Mama Mary bless our motherland. I know and believe that Mama Mary will help us to better times, God bless us. Mama Mary loves us! Dec. 8 is also my Mama's 84th birthday. I have simplified my prayer for the family by praying that all of Mama's wishes and prayers come true. That's because mothers know best. May God bless all mothers.

* * *

Soon it will be Christmas. Have you set aside something for the less fortunate? God will smile upon you and your family if you tone down on your decorations, gift-giving and party expenses, and give more to the poor. Give, give till it hurts. That's what the Lord wants from all of us, especially during Christmas.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to turn right, and really go straight. Amen.

Honor and dishonor

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST FRIDAY, DEC. 2, WAS THE 106TH DEATH anniversary of the youngest general of our revolutionary forces during the fight against Spain and, later, the United States. Gregorio Del Pilar was only 24 years old at the time of his death, but the years of his life were crowned with glory and honor of the highest order.

The site of the Philippine Military Academy in Baguio City is named after him, and Fort Del Pilar is home to many of the officers who have served in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Yesterday, the Battle of Tirad Pass in 1899 was commemorated at the Fort with simple wreath-laying ceremonies by the Corps of Cadets.

Some six months ago, I was invited to preside over Incorporation Rites at the military academy. As I mentioned in an earlier column, this is one of the oldest traditions of the Corps and it signifies the acceptance of the newcomers—better known as plebes—into the main body of cadets.

When I addressed the Corps in formation on the parade grounds of Fort Del Pilar, I related to the cadets an experience I had many years ago. During a program marking the death anniversary of our hero, I had an opportunity to mix with several cadets and officers of the post, and I asked some basic questions about General Del Pilar—when he was born, where he was born, and a few details of the Battle of Tirad Pass. To my great disappointment, no one seemed to know much about the person in whose honor the Fort was named.

At a time of growing scandals in the AFP, I felt it was an appropriate occasion to refresh the minds of our young soldiers and to remind them of a past which they could truly be proud of.

Gregorio Del Pilar was born in Bulacan on Nov. 18, 1875. He belonged to the poorer branch of the distinguished Del Pilar clan of the province. His father Fernando, was the brother of Marcelo H. Del Pilar, the great propagandist of Filipino aspirations in Europe.

When hostilities against Spain broke out, Gregorio was commissioned a lieutenant, then promoted to captain and, by the time the Pact of Biak na Bato was signed, he had advanced to the rank of lieutenant colonel and became aide de camp to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo. At 23, he was promoted to the rank of general.

In the meantime, a new enemy had entered the scene and, as the Philippine-American War progressed, Aguinaldo retreated to the north, pursued by elements of the United States' Texas rangers led by a Major Peyton March (he would later become US Army chief of staff). In order to delay the advance of March and give more time for Aguinaldo to escape encirclement, Del Pilar took up positions at Tirad Pass.

An American war correspondent, John McCutcheon, who was "embedded" with the US forces, sent this dispatch on the Battle of Tirad Pass:

December 1899

"The fight above the clouds at Tila Pass, where the trail crosses the big Cordilleras from Ilocos Sur to Lepanto province, was in many respects the crowning achievement of the war.

"To a certain degree it was a last stand, and the only fight which can be compared, in character of ground-fighting and desperation of resistance, although certainly not in magnitude, to such fights as Thermopylae and Dargai Ridge. How stubbornly contested the position was may be seen from the fact that a small force of insurgents held back a battalion of Texas Rangers for nearly five hours, and how loyal and devoted the Filipinos were, is told by the grim record that they left behind.

"There were fifty-two killed and wounded out of sixty. Those sixty were men picked from Aguinaldo's own bodyguard, and were selected because of their devotion to their leader and for their marksmanship.

"Gen. Del Pilar was the last to fall. As he was preparing to mount his horse, a bullet caught him in the neck. At that time, no one knew who the dead man was, but from his uniform and insignia they judged that he was an officer of high rank. The souvenir fiend was at once at work, and the body was stripped of everything of value, from the diamond ring to the boots. A pair of handsome field glasses with an attachment which determined the ranges for the riflemen, was turned over by one of the soldiers. He wore silver spurs, shoulder-straps of gold, and a new khaki suit, such as all the higher Filipino officers wear. He carried no sword. (Other versions of the battle mention the presence of a sword on Del Pilar.)

"The last entry in his diary read: 'I yield to the terrible destiny that will overcome me and my brave soldiers but I am glad to die fighting for my beloved country.'"

* * *

By coincidence, last Friday, Dec. 2, saw the conviction by a military court martial of Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia, former AFP comptroller. Garcia is the highest military officer to be found guilty of corruption by a military tribunal. He was given a dishonorable discharge; punished with the forfeiture of all pay and allowances and retirement benefits; and sentenced to two years of hard labor. His trial took one year and two weeks.

The decision sends the right signals to the men in uniform. But I still find it difficult to believe that Garcia could have done all that he did by his lonesome. It is also time to ask our civil courts what is happening to corruption cases involving high-ranking civilian officials. The military has carried out a painful task. If we are to have confidence in our justice system, we must see some action from our civil courts, one way or another, and we don't mean involving just the small fry.

The Pan-Asian wave

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

TROLLING THROUGH TV CHANNELS ONE morning last week in my hotel room in Phnom Penh, I chanced upon familiar-looking characters on Cambodian channel CTN. Their faces were certainly recognizable, but even more so were their costumes. It was the GMA-7 *"fantaserye"* "Mulawin," now off the air here (though "Mulawin: The Movie" will be part of the Metro Manila Film Festival), and dubbed in Khmer.

Filipinos in Cambodia can have their fill of Philippine news and entertainment through TFC, The Filipino Channel, but I bet they get a kick out of watching a local serial on Cambodian TV.

It's quite gratifying to stumble upon evidence that we haven't exactly been left behind in the booming trade of Asian entertainment, with movies and TV serials—and to a limited extent pop music—cross-pollinating markets and cultures across Asia and even among Asian migrant populations in the United States. Korean TV dramas and movies, which are leading this global marketing blitz, have even made inroads in Egypt, the Middle East and Latin America, home of the "telenovela."

Indeed, we are seeing the emergence of what has been dubbed a "Pan-Asian" entertainment and multi-media industry, posing as a competitor—if not a threat—to Hollywood hegemony, not just in this continent but in other regions of the world as well.

* * *

IN ALMOST all countries of the world—India is a possible exception—films made in Hollywood rule the box-office. Explaining the disappearance of the action film genre here, for instance, industry insiders say that there was no way local action films could compete against Hollywood's output chock-full of spectacular and expensive special-effects and backed by gargantuan marketing departments.

To counter the financial muscle of American production houses, Asian producers and creative folk have begun working together, with actors and behind-the-camera talent from countries like Japan, China and Korea pooling resources and efforts for big-budget productions. Take one recent serial I watched, called "101st Proposal," based on a popular Japanese TV show of the same title. It was financed by a giant Japanese TV network, with creative input from "Koreanovela" stalwarts and starring Choi Ji-woo, the "Audrey Hepburn of Korea" who's the female lead of the best-known TV dramas ("Winter Sonata," "Stairway to Heaven," "Memories of Beautiful Days"). "101st Proposal" was filmed entirely in Shanghai, with a largely Chinese cast, and aimed primarily at the Chinese market.

But even as they target a single "Pan-Asian" market, entertainment moguls are finding that the "Asian" market is not as homogeneous as it may appear. While the Japanese TV market, dominated by middle-aged housewives and career women, goes for syrupy and convoluted romances and heroic male leads in the mold of Bae Yong-jun, better known as Yonsama in China, the truly big phenomenon is "Dae Jang Geum" also known as "Jewel in the Palace." A historical costume drama, it tells the story of an orphan girl who joined the royal household as a kitchen maid and eventually became the royal physician. Scholars, explaining its appeal to Chinese audiences, say that TV watching is still a family affair in the mainland, and that "Jewel in the Palace," with its Confucian values, resonates with Chinese nostalgia for a simpler past.

* * *

INDEED, as I mentioned yesterday, there's a rich exchange taking place not just on the economic and marketing front, but also at the level of culture and international understanding.

There is much to be gleaned, for instance, about Korean life and culture from their TV dramas, although Korean sociologists warn that these are not in any way accurate or even realistic reflections of the lives of ordinary Koreans. For one, most of the characters tend to be rich and flashy, with sons of "chaebol" families the favorite male romantic leads. But grittier and earthier dramas like "Memories of Bali" provide a glimpse of the seedier side of life in Seoul, with characters involved in the sex and GRO industry and even living in tin shacks.

Still, the depictions are rich in information. The dominant role played by patriarchs, for instance, with characters constantly concerned about whether their parents and families would approve of their liaisons, mirrors a concern that most young Asians certainly share. But I'm also appalled by the way the men treat the women—pushing the latter around, jerking them away from confrontations, unilaterally making decisions about their lives. (Yonsama's character in "Winter Sonata," no matter how gently and sweetly he may treat Choi Ji-woo, still thinks he can make decisions about their joint future by himself.) An encouraging trend, though, is the emergence of strong female roles in more recent TV dramas and romantic comedies.

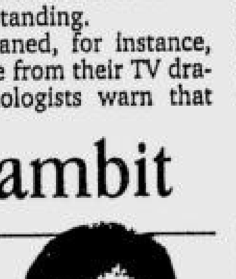
* * *

THE NAGGING question after all these is why the Philippines cannot play a more prominent role in the creation of a Pan-Asian entertainment market. A few Filipino actors have taken roles in movies and TV shows in Malaysia and Singapore. And our own *telenovelas*, most prominently ABS-CBN's "Pangako sa Iyo," have won their own share of followers in Southeast Asian countries. But we have yet to create our own counterpart to Yonsama, as well as to the *"hallyu"* or "Korean wave" that has washed on to so many foreign shores.

In fact, Filipinos enjoy an edge that continues to elude the Koreans. A report says that Yonsama is taking a respite from his busy schedule to study in the United States to hone his English, which he needs to improve to become a truly international star. I can think of any number of local actors who can match Yonsama in looks and ability, and English is certainly not a problem for them.

Garci's gambit

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

IN CHESS, A GAMBIT IS A CALCULATED MOVE that offers the sacrifice of a pawn or another piece in order to secure a positional advantage. Former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano made a clever one, and the nation took it. He has reappeared, and so he is no longer missing. He has talked to the media, yet doing so, wholly on his own terms. He has made himself accessible, but he has maintained full control of the communication process. Congress has an unserved arrest warrant for him, but its agents still do not know where to find him. Garcillano says he is ready to talk, but he insists on setting the terms of his own interrogation. Score: Garcillano: 1, Nation: 0.

Everything that Garcillano has said so far may be summed up in two sentences: First, that he did not rig the election results in Mindanao, and second, that politicians from both the administration and the opposition talked to him and sought his help during the last elections. The first is the equivalent of the principal theme of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "I am sorry" speech—"I did not cheat in the election. I won fair and square." The second is a variation of GMA's insight into the nature of Philippine politics: Our politics is so "degenerated" that no one who embarks on a political career can hope to emerge from it with clean hands. Score: Gloria: 2, Nation: 0.

Until we actually see Garcillano answering questions under oath before a congressional hearing, it would be difficult to guess where and how far this script will go. He has said everything that Ms Arroyo wants the public to hear—that he did not cheat for her. And he has aired a veiled threat to the opposition members—that he is prepared to implicate them. From hereon, he may simply ignore summonses from both houses of Congress until they agree to his terms. He has said he decided to go into hiding out of fear for his life, not because he is guilty.

The timing of his return could not have been better. The peso is gaining in value. Filipino athletes are scooping medals in the ongoing SEA Games. Christmas is in the air. People are tired of politics. Most important, enough time has passed since the Hello Garci tapes scandal exploded. All the damaging information that could be used against Ms Arroyo should have been exhausted by now. There would be no reason to make any blind moves like Secretary Ignacio Bunye's clumsy attempt at a cover-up on June 6, and GMA's neither-here-nor-there confession on June 27. By now, Malacañang's army of spin doctors will have written a focused and internally consistent script—one that offers a plausible version of what happened. Even if closure is not achieved, Garci's reappearance lifts some of the pressure from Gloria.

We have to remind ourselves that the principal figure in this election fraud drama is still Gloria, not Garci. When she apologized to the nation for talking to "a Comelec official" while the 2004 election returns were being canvassed, she said that she owed it to the nation "to set the record straight" on the controversial tapes. She has not done so until now.

Many questions are still hanging. The most important are the following: (1) Was Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano the "Comelec official" Gloria talked to during the elections? (2) Were the conversations she had with Garcillano the same ones that were caught on tape? Which of these actually took place and which ones, if any, were fabricated or doctored? (3) She said she made those calls only because she was concerned "to protect her votes." How exactly did she expect Garcillano to do that for her? (4) The wiretapping of presidential calls is a serious breach of national security. Has she ordered a thorough investigation of the origins of these tapes? Who did the wiretapping, and on whose orders?

On several occasions, when Ms Arroyo faced the media, she was consistently evasive on these questions. She justified her refusal to provide straightforward answers by invoking her rights as an accused in the then pending impeachment cases. On a technicality, her allies in the House threw away those complaints last Sept. 7. Three months have passed since then. Ms Arroyo is no longer facing impeachment, yet she has not seen it fit to set the record straight on the Garci tapes.

All that we have heard from her, so far, is an admission that she talked to a Comelec official while the canvassing was going on, and that she knew this to be improper. She has apologized to the nation for this "lapse in judgment."

We can all move on from here and forget this sordid chapter in our nation's political life. Or we can continue to ask Ms Arroyo the same questions until we get straight answers, and to demand her resignation until she stops stonewalling on an issue that is fundamental to the future of democracy in our country.

The practical ones will argue that we must now put this issue behind us, because keeping it alive only destroys the nation and, besides, there is no viable alternative to Ms Arroyo. The idealists, on the other hand, say that it is not right that we allow ourselves to be governed by a regime based on lies, and that we owe it to our children to determine once and for all whether, as suggested by the tapes and by investigative media, Ms Arroyo personally conspired with a top election official to manipulate the canvassing process in order to pad her votes.

Can we still fix our politics? That is the crux of the matter. Garcillano's testimony will not resolve this for us. It is a question that we must answer ourselves. Believing that we can is the beginning of reform.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Not a girl, not yet a woman

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

IT WAS ALREADY EIGHT O'CLOCK WHEN MY FRIENDS AND I landed in SM North Edsa, my usual stomping ground, a P10-jeepney ride from UP Diliman. It used to be that we'd go all the way to Robinson's Metroeast to watch flicks, but the recent renovations of the SM theaters, sans chewing gum, sticky floors and cramped seating, proved that the monster mall really has "got it all for you."

My karma being as it is, we walked into the only theater that hadn't been spruced up—which explained sliding down the aisle with a cucumber slice stuck to the bottom of my rubber slipper.

The movie we came to watch is the story of an adolescent taking care of a criminal father (Soliman Cruz) and two older brothers (Neal Ryan Sese and Ping Medina) living in the slums. Twelve-year-old Maxi Oliveros quietly prepares dinner, washes dishes, goes marketing, washes bloody shirts and generally acts as the little mother to a family of rough and tumble males. It all changes when Maxi falls in love with Victor (JR Valentin), a straight-as-an-arrow policeman, who joins the community and investigates a murder committed by an Oliveros brother. The choice is clear: love or family.

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" (The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros) is made all the more poignant by the fact that Maxi, or Maximo, is a young boy. His queerness is not considered an anomaly, but just another fact of life. There are moments of sheer humor that made the theater's unusually large late-night crowd scream with laughter.

In one scene, after Maxi (Nathan Lopez) serves his father rice, the father comments that the older boys should learn from Maxi's thoughtfulness. Then he pulls out a roll of bills and hands Maxi a twenty as reward. Then he winks.

"'*Yan Maxi, pambili mo ng* napkin (Here Maxi, for buying your napkins)."

Maxi's brother Bogs refuses to be left behind.

"*Ako rin* 'Tay, *akin naman may* wings (Me too, 'Tay, mine [napkin] has wings)."

The father good-naturedly knocks Bogs in the head, and Maxi watches them with amused pleasure.

It's a beautiful coming-of-age story by the same writer (Michiko Yamamoto) who made me cry thrice in the three times I watched "Magnifico."

The movie is linked together with little scenes of affection in the Oliveros family. Maximo is treated much like a favored daughter living in an environment of crime and day-to-day struggle. If Maximo really were a girl, the plot of the story would have been exactly the same.

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" is simply that, a story of an adolescent's awakening to and through love. Though *pagdadalaga* (or a girl's blossoming) is a gendered word for women, attaching it to a non-gendered process like growing up makes for an interesting approach in a gay film—if it can even be called that. As my friend Nicolo said, while other films problematize being gay, this one normalizes it, and more effectively slashes at stereotypes.

There are no good or bad guys in the story, just complex people who try to survive. True, the squalor, the crime and the filth are painted expertly, but the despair is refreshingly absent. There is warmth and laughter and the distinctly Pinoy way of finding joy in the smallest of ways. Maxi and his *barkada* of other little gay kids stage their own private fashion show under the eye of an amused dressmaker, while in another scene, Maxi (wearing his signature flower hairclips) strolls out of a dark stairway into the sunlight and sees a toddler poking at a manhole. He takes the squirming little boy back into the house, strips him daintily, and them gives him an impromptu bath. The boy's mother picks up the smiling, towel-wrapped child later on and calls out a thank you to Maxi.

My personal favorite is Maxi's brother Bogs (Ping Medina), a teasing, pony-tailed charmer studded with tattoos, who sits playing video games while Maxi braids his brother's long hair. The protective older brother vibe is very present—very similar to that of the caveman in boxer shorts who lives two rooms away from my bedroom at home.

At one time, Maxi, rejected by Victor, walks blindly into Bogs. After one look, Bogs hustles him into an empty jeep and drags out the truth: that Maxi is still pursuing Victor, who is out to bring one of the brothers to jail. Torn between anger and sympathy, Bogs puts an arm around Maxi and says the same thing every big brother around the world must have said to teary-eyed little sisters since the beginning of time.

"*Tama na iyak, di ko 'to paaabutin sa bahay, pero kung gawin mo 'to sa kanya ulit, magagalit ako*

(Stop crying, I won't let them find out at home, but if you do it again, I'll be very angry)."

Then Maxi leans his head on Bogs' sweaty T-shirt and cries.

Soliman Cruz and Neal Ryan Sese also give an equally engaging father-and-son performance, while talented theater and TV performer Bodjie Pascua do not disappoint his hordes or loyal fans (including me). It's impossible to praise every single member of the cast, so I'll summarize it thus: they are all brilliant.

The movie is far from perfect, even to the amateur eye. Some scenes are so under-lighted that they're jarring. The audio is sometimes hard to follow, and the transitions can be abrupt. But as with sticky floors and chewing gums, everything else is forgotten in the whole glorious scope of the film.

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," directed by first time fiction film director Aureaus Solito, is the recipient of numerous awards and has just recently been invited into Robert Redford's Sundance Film Festival early next year, a first for Filipinos. Just another reason enough to start singing "Pinoy Ako."

There is one visual that keeps playing in my head: angelic-looking Maxi strutting down a muddy alley as if it were a catwalk, narrow hips swinging in a pair of tiny red shorts. Nathan Lopez plays the role with restraint, bringing to life a sweet and delicate girl-who-happens-to-be-a-boy tasting the first thrill of young love.

Whoever you are, wherever you're from, watch this film! On a scale of 1 to 10, I'm giving it a hundred and one.

* * *

Send comments to pat.evangelista@gmail.com

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COPING WITH HIGH FUEL PRICES

Commuting on a bike

HIGH GAS PRICES AND BUS FARES ARE PUSHING A GROWING NUMBER OF commuters to take alternative means of transport. Some car owners are switching to motorcycles. Others are pedaling their way to work instead of taking a bus or jeepney or driving a car.

To encourage people to use a bicycle, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority launched a 3 6-kilometer pedal-only lane in Quezon City in September. The lane traverses Xavierville Avenue and other secondary streets, connecting Edsa and Katipunan Avenue for bikers.

White and pink lines mark the pilot bikeway.

No other bike lane has been set up by the MMDA. As a result, people are pedaling in the metropolis alongside cars, jeepneys, buses and trucks, exposing them to danger.

For a number of people, using a bicycle or motorcycle to report for work helps them make ends meet. For others, it's an option.

The two articles below show the advantages and disadvantages of commuting on a bicycle or motorcycle.

Extra challenge: 120 km in 3 days

By Tessa Salazar, Aries Espinosa and Christine Ang

WE WERE FED UP. TIRED OF BEING hostages to fossil fuels, the three of us who live in subdivisions south of Makati recently decided to hatch a plan to eliminate entirely our dependence on gasoline. The objective was to get to the office on time and get home alive and safe—without using a drop of gasoline or diesel.

But how would we do it without walking the entire distance? Two of us live in Moonwalk, Las Piñas—around 23 kilometers from the office on Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo) in Makati, while one has just moved into a new house in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, a good 38 km from the office. If we walked that distance to and from work every day of the week, we would look like hermits from Mount Banahaw in no time.

The answer came in the form of two wheels—bicycles to be specific. Bicycles are considered the most efficient human-powered machines ever built, and obviously don't use gas.

The decision was unanimous. But we had to psyche ourselves up first and put the tarpaulins over our cars. In Christine's case (she doesn't own a car but rides a taxi almost every day), she had to pacify her loyal cab driver, who bawled to high heavens for evidently "lost" income.

Next, we had to plan our routes. Being novices in the delicate art and science of bike commuting, we plotted possible routes that would allow us to encounter fewer motor-driven vehicles. The ideal route that emerged (*See map*) had us passing through five subdivisions, one unavoidable highway, and one potentially dangerous west service road of the South Luzon Expressway.

Permits

Then, we had to get permission from all these subdivisions. The security and homeowners associations of the villages, fortunately, were friendly and accommodating, and granted our request.

Next, we had to prepare our "rides:" Christine already had a mountain bike. Aries decided to use his trusty GTS Pro RS road bike while Tessa had a relatively new Giant road bike.

Almost as important as having dependable bikes were the safety equipment to keep our bodies protected and to make us visible (and audible) to motorists and pedestrians. These included helmets, arm warmers, body reflectors, bike reflectors, headlights, "cow bells," and chemical masks—the works.

Then, we had to prepare provisions. We estimated that we would be biking a total of 46 km every day for the entire three days of our trial bike commute. So we planned to bring a liter of energy drinks and an energy bar for each.

We thought we had everything prepared. On the day before the experiment, we were actually in high spirits, thinking we had beaten the entire Opec system.

Jolting

The streets of Metro Manila, however, have a cruel way of jolting you back to harsh realities. On the first morning rush hour of our bike commute, we were unnerved by everything that moved around us. We felt suddenly vulnerable to even the smallest imperfections of the road. Even inside seemingly quiet villages, motorists were already speeding their way to beat the bundy clock at work. Drivers were impatient as early as 7 in the morning, honking as they passed us. Motorcycles zoomed past us from all sides. Tricycles laden with students almost clipped us to the sidewalk. Oftentimes we had to play a dangerous game of *moro-moro* with crossing pedestrians.

Intersections, even within subdivisions, were especially dangerous. Many drivers wouldn't slow down even if they saw us about to cross the road. Naturally, we would be forced to stop right in the middle of the crossing, exposing all our sides to oncoming vehicles.

The 2-km stretch of the West Service Road from the Merville gate to the Nichols overpass deserves special mention here, if only for the death-defying stunt cyclists have to perform every time they dare share this road with private motorists, and public utility and truck drivers. We had a feel of how dangerous this stretch could be when we tried this stretch during morning rush hour and late at night going back home.

Coming from the Merville gate, the West Service Road narrows from four lanes to two, then inclines steadily a kilometer from the Nichols overpass. As the road narrows, vehicles from the south have to merge into a single lane. That's where the danger lay for northbound bikers like us on the morning rush. The northbound single-lane is barely enough to accommodate one car, let alone a delivery van or a bus or jeep. By the time we were huffing and puffing our way up to the overpass, vehicles were whizzing by too close for comfort at speeds exceeding 60 kph we could literally feel the air turbulence they created.

Nighttime added more dangers to the ride. Leaving the office as late as 10 p.m., we now had to contend with a long line of trucks using the southbound side of the service road. These trucks, by virtue of their size, occupied the entire width of the road. The more daring bike commuters took their chances and rode in front of and behind this convoy of trucks.

Our solution to the problem: Use the wide, albeit unkempt walkway between the service road and the perimeter wall of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. This meant riding the bike on the grassy and oftentimes wet and slippery walkway until the service road widened to four lanes and became safer for us.

The stretch of Pasong Tamo from Nichols to the office presented a new set of problems, foremost of which were the public jeepneys that kept cutting into our paths to collect or deposit passengers. Most of the time, we had no choice but to stop behind the jeepney and wait for it to move forward again.

More than 3 hours

We arrived at the office on the first day of our bike commute feeling more like Death March survivors than triumphant bikers. We had spent over three hours pedaling our way through rush hour traffic, with plenty of rest and rehydration breaks in between. We left Las Piñas at 7 a.m. and arrived just in time before Christine's time-in at 11.

Christine had to buy Alaxan and ointment because of a sore groin. She wasn't using padded shorts on the first day.

Nighttime biking, though less exhausting, could be considered the riskiest part of our commute. Aside from the reduced visibility, we had to contend with flooded streets in the Pasong Tamo-Makati Cinema Square area (it was the height of the rainy season) that oftentimes concealed parallel-running manhole grills.

Ah, the grills. Tessa also found out that parallel-running canal grills can be a biker's worst enemy. On the third and last day of our bike commute, on the way to the office, Tessa's front tire fell in the space between the canal grills that ran along the entire width of the Pasong Tamo-Edsa tunnel. Her momentum pole-vaulted her from her bike and she landed hand and headfirst on the concrete. Luckily, she sustained no injuries, but learned a valuable lesson—approach road grills at an angle whenever you're on a bike.

Lessons

We also found out in those three days that even as motorists and bikers share the same roads at the same time, their road experiences are worlds apart. Motorists and their passengers obviously enjoy the immense advantage of having their lives protected by tons of steel, plastic and rubber. Bikers, on the other hand, enjoy the advantage of being extremely adaptable to changing traffic conditions. No biker gets stuck in a traffic jam. On the other hand, no motorist has died in a head-on collision with a bike.

The pervading reality is that many of Metro Manila's roads are just too restrictive to allow for "mutual" respect among motorists and bikers.

In the end, we concluded, with a tinge of disappointment, that we could not sacrifice our safety for the sake of saving a few hundred pesos on gas and taxi fares. The route along the five major subdivisions, however, showed great promise in promoting safe biking routes. But then, like an island in a vast ocean of uncertainty, these bikers' sanctuary ends as soon as we exit Merville's gate.

But we haven't given up on biking just yet. Right now, we're planning a "hybrid route" combining the use of our cars and bikes. Roughly, the plan should go like this: We bike from Las Piñas to the Merville gate. From there, we would pack our bikes onto a car and drive the rest of the way to the office. Going back home, we would drive our car back to the same spot in Merville, take out our bikes, and pedal the 15 km of the way home.

With that system, we could now approach that cursed grill any way we like, in the airconditioned comfort of a car.

(Salazar is a reporter for Special Sections, Espinosa is the editor of Special Projects, and Ang is an editorial assistant for the Opinion section of the INQUIRER.*)*

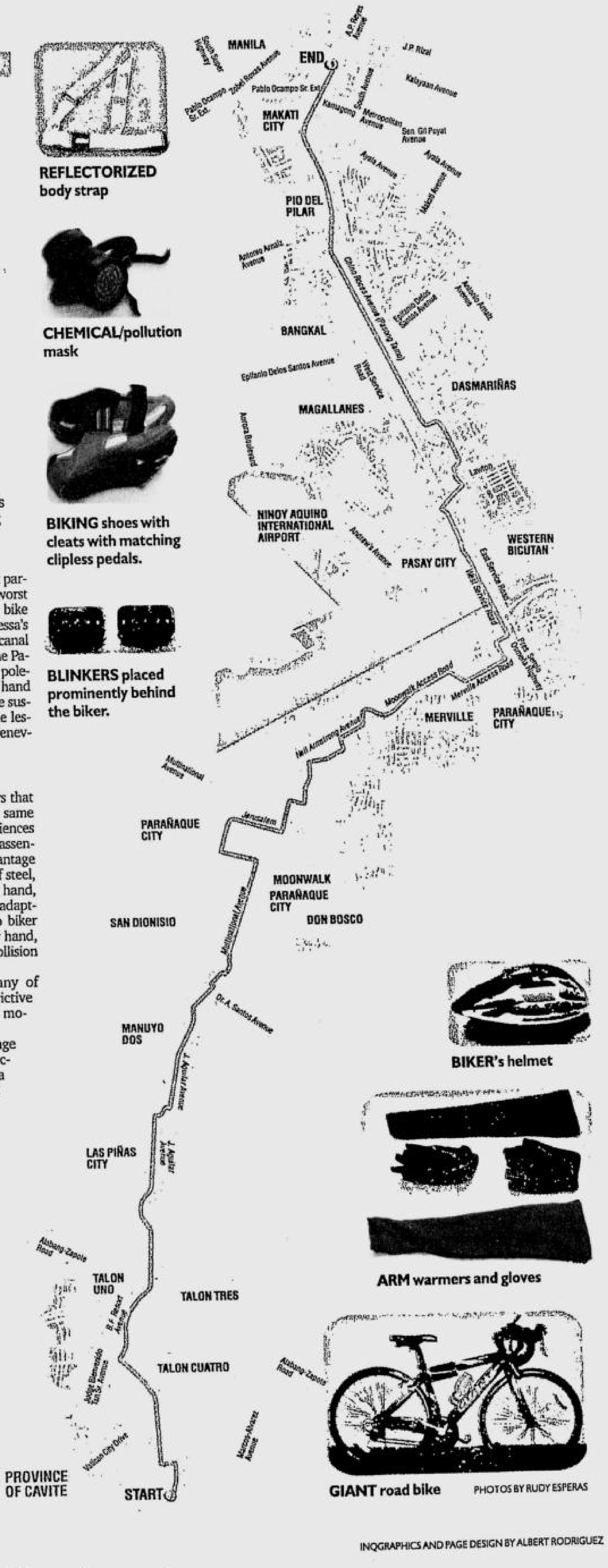
TALE OF THE TAPE: DRIVING VS BIKING

Car expenses

- Tessa's secondhand car: P280,000 (Honda Civic LXi 1997; mileage of 16 km/liter) Expenses (assuming a six-day work week): Spends: 2.72 liters for 44-km trip a day or P99.82 a day (at P36.71/ liter of unleaded gas); toll fee: P30 a day; maintenance: P50,000 to P70,000 a year. **Total for the year: P90,633.66** (313 days of car riding costs P31,244.61 (for fuel); maintenance, P50,000; toll fee, P9,390.
- Aries' secondhand car: P250,000 (Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi 1995; mileage of 13 km/liter) Spends 5.846 liters for 76-km trip a day or P216.31 a day (at P37/liter of high-octane fuel); toll fee: P134 a day; maintenance: P50,000 to P70,000 a year. **Total for the year: P159,647** (313 days of car riding costs P67,705 (for fuel); annual maintenance P50,000; toll fee, P41,942 (excluding Skyway emergency trips).
- Christine's taxi fare and daily commute cost Taxi: P350 a day; taxi fare for whole year: P54,600 (3 days a week); annual Skyway fare: P17,940 (every time she rides a taxi to the office); bus fare for taxi days: P4,212 (takes a bus going home 3 times a week); bus fare for non-taxi days: P8,424 (full-time bus commute 3 times a week); tricycle at P23 a day (two way); tricycle fare during taxi days: P11.50/day (one way) x 156 days = P1,794; tricycle fare during bus days: P23 a day (two way) x 156 days = P3,588; total tricycle fare a year: P5,382; **Total annual transpo: P90,558**

Bike expenses

- Tessa's bike: P45,000; bike headlights, P1,600; pollution mask, P400; blinker, P600; padded shorts, P150; pair of gloves, P850; two pairs of reflectors, P80; eight pieces of Triple A batteries for headlights and blinkers: P485 x 4 (one set per quarter) = P1,940; maintenance, at least P2,000 a year. **Total cost: P52,620** (for first year); P52,620 - P45,000 = P7,620 (for succeeding years).
- Aries' bike: P20,000; Same as Tessa gadgets's plus jersey shirt P250 and biking shoes with cleats and pedals: P5,000 (expense for first year). Total cost: P32,870 (for first year); **Total cost: P7,870** (for succeeding years).
- Christine's bike: P9,000; Same as Tessa's gadgets; Total cost: P16,620 (for first year); **Total cost: P7,620** (for succeeding years).



REFLECTORIZED body strap

CHEMICAL/pollution mask

BIKING shoes with cleats with matching clipless pedals.

BLINKERS placed prominently behind the biker.

BIKER's helmet

ARM warmers and gloves

GIANT road bike

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

INQGRAPHICS AND PAGE DESIGN BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Weigh advantages and disadvantages

By Raymond Anthony G. Totañes

I LIVE IN BIÑAN, LAGUNA. WHEN I learned that I would be assigned to PSBank-Chino Roces Avenue in Makati, 30 kilometers from where I live, I immediately thought of the cost of transportation.

With the high cost of living, you have to think how to make your paycheck last until the next payday.

Car

"What can I do to reduce the cost of going to and from the office?" I asked myself.

If you use a car, you'll arrive at your destination fresh. But it would cost at least P400 daily just for gasoline and toll fee. Including parking and car maintenance, the cost would rise to P8,000 a month. If you want to economize, driving a car is not the way to do it.

Then I thought of commuting. You get to your destination relatively fresh and relaxed. But for me, I would have to spend P120 every day if I commute. In one month, I would spend P2,400. Still expensive.

Bicycle

I thought of biking. I actually tried it for three months using a bicycle I bought for P2,000. In less than a month I recouped the amount I shelled out. You hardly spend to maintain a bike. The only thing you have to prepare for is a flat tire. If you have a vulcanizing kit (air pump and patch), you practically have no additional expense.

What are the advantages of cycling? 1) The cost of maintenance is minimal. 2) You hit two birds with one stone—you save and you get to exercise. 3) No traffic and you're not covered by the odd-even scheme of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. You're also not covered by one-way signs, and you can pass almost anywhere. There's no need to register your bike and you don't need a license to operate one. In other words, *wala kang huli!*

What are the disadvantages of cycling? 1) Travel time is longer. If a distance is covered by a car or bus in an hour, it will take one and a half hours. 2) Exposure to the elements—dirt, rain and the heat. 3) Since your body is dirtied, you need to bathe or wipe off dirt from your body and change clothes before reporting for work. 4) Night travel is dangerous. Usually bikes lack lights or reflectors, so it's difficult to see you if a car travels fast.

5) Exhaustion. You're physically drained when you get to your destination.

I decided to buy a motorcycle, a Honda Alpha 100 cc, for P39,800 when I saw one at a showroom.

A motorcycle offers more benefits to me than a bicycle or car, although there's also a downside.

Motorcycle

Anyway, here are the advantages I found: 1) My travel is faster than taking a bus; 2) I could determine the time I'm expected to arrive at my destination; 3) I'm not covered by the odd-even scheme; 4) Maintenance is as a cheap as keeping a bicycle except for the additional gasoline expense.

5) I only use a little over a liter of gasoline daily (roughly a mileage of 60 km/liter). But at 40 kph I increased my mileage by 7 km and save more. 6) I arrive more fresh than when I go to office by bicycle.

I spend just P37 a day (at 60 km/liter at P36.90/liter). I don't pedal for 60 km and I cut travel time by one-third.

Nevertheless, I see two disadvantages. First, I get dirty because I'm exposed to the elements. I can be spit at unintentionally and splashed by mud. I also breathe the dust and smoke on the road. Second, it's dangerous.

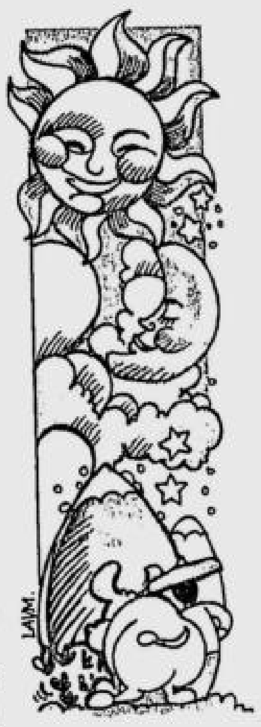
But there are ways to avoid them. First, I keep my motorcycle in tip-top shape. Second, I wear boots, gloves, denim pants, long sleeves and helmet. I also use an industrial mask (which can be bought at Ace hardware, Work-Station or Handyman) to filter the air I breathe. I also have a raincoat. Third, I'm careful. I travel at moderate speed and have presence of mind.

The decision is yours. Weigh the advantages and disadvantages. If one option is beneficial, then take it and if it's not, ditch it. Driving a motorcycle is serious business. You have to learn the skills to drive one.

(Totañes is a branch cashier of PSBank.)

Farming with the sun, the moon and stars

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Makilala, North Cotabato



WHEN THE MOON AND the sun passed through the sphere of Taurus on June 6 and 7, rice farmer Frank Agcaracar of Barangay Pisan in Kabacan town in North Cotabato performed a peculiar procedure that some people might suspect as witchcraft.

He gathered and burned certain species of bugs and scattered the ashes in his farm. Sometimes, he would spray the entire field with milk and honey, their sweet smell attracting insects. The friendly insects would do the job of annihilating the harmful ones.

No spells whatsoever, but the Agcaracar farm was never bothered by pests.

People behind this practice swear that nothing is voodoo with the method. Its effectiveness, they say, lies behind the forces of nature, like the sun and moon and the stars and the four basic elements—air, water, fire and earth.

Biodynamics

"Pest management is best done when the moon and sun are in Taurus. Behind this is the interplay of two forces—the elements of fire and water," said Betsy Gamela Ruizo, head of Don Bosco Diocesan Youth Center, a a nongovernment organization pioneering in biodynamics.

Farmers into biodynamics now number 3,800 in North Cotabato. They rid their farms of weeds by gathering and burning the seeds of unwanted weeds and spreading a small amount of the ashes over the area. The weed would never grow in the field.

If they want to expel rust, mildew, scab and other soil-borne pathogenic fungi, the farmers spray the juice of horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*).

To relieve plants of stress, they apply cow manure buried in a female cow horn from May to September. This also promotes root activity, especially of fine root hairs to stimulate micro-life and increase beneficial bacterial growth as it invigorates the soil.

Quartz crystals buried in a female cow horn for several months are effective in bringing sunlight to the leaves of the plants, stimulating fruit and seed formation.

Biodynamic agriculture is considered one of the many tested models that have gained highest prominence in the development of international organic principles and standards.

Science of life

The farming system is anchored mainly on cosmic influences, including zodiac signs. It "seeks to integrate cosmological with terrestrial environment, to bring nature again with the cosmic creative shaping forces."

It follows a calendar issued by the International Astronomers Union (IAU)—complete with all the zodiac signs and some strange-looking symbols.

From the Latin words meaning life and force, biodynamics surfaced in 1924 from the science of the spirit or anthroposophic philosophy of Rudolf Steiner.

"It is a higher level of organic farming practice. Organic farming is very geocentric or Earth centered, while biodynamics considers the movements of the planets. We deal with forces rather than just matters and the yields of our farmers would speak of the effectiveness of the system," Ruizo said.

Interconnectivity

In biodynamics, the plants are regarded as the mediator between cosmos and earth. The sun, which is the element of light, has great influence on the plant, along with how the plants are influenced by the moon and the planets.

"The light of the sun, moon, planets, and stars reaches the plants in regular rhythms ... by understanding the gesture and effect of each rhythm, we can time our ground preparation, sowing, cultivating and harvesting," a biodynamics paper says.

The moon is related to the earth in terms of fertility, Ruizo said. The earth gets its fertility from the moon and everything inside the earth has lunar cycle just like women and animals have their respective lunar cycles.

Water carries fertility, Ruizo said. The soil would not be fertile in the absence of water.

"If your plants have elements of death, it lacks vitality because by introducing dead elements like synthetic fertilizers, the microorganisms would then consume and decompose them," she said.

While the yield of the farmers depends on longevity and level of perfection of the application of biodynamics, farmers practicing it are getting far more than what mainstream farmers are getting.

The highest yield of one biodynamic farmer so far reached 9.12 tons of rice per hectare when the national average is placed at 3.2 tons per hectare. New biodynamic farmers average 7.11 tons per hectare.

"It is not difficult to gain economically using biodynamics. It is the easiest way of farming because you don't use costly synthetic chemicals and other farm inputs that are burden to the farmers and harmful to the environment," Ruizo said.

And while many mainstream farmers are hesitant to shift to biodynamics for fear they would suffer a slump, Ruizo said their experience says otherwise.

Jerry Liong of Midsayap town, a former heavy synthetic chemical user for many years, shifted to biodynamic farming on his seven-hectare farm recently and got 705 bags. His highest yield when he still depended on chemicals, was 648 bags.

Ruizo, 45, is a graduate of philosophy from the Ateneo de Davao University and taught philosophy for sometime at the Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

Ruizo, along with 15 other development workers, established Don Bosco in September 1993 and started with organic farming.

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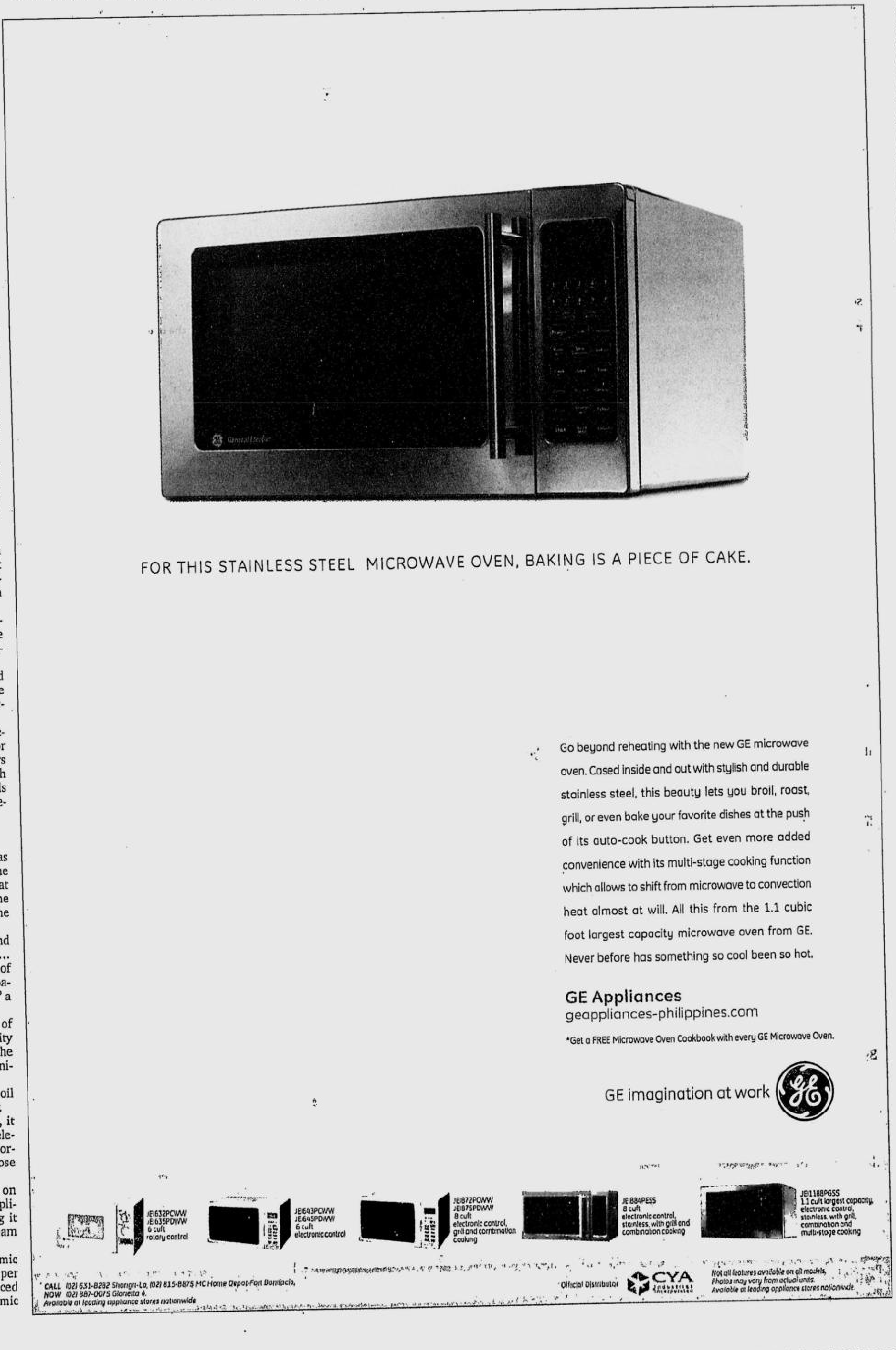
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Mindanao NGOs push organic campaign

DAVAO CITY—NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS in Mindanao are pushing for organic and biodynamic farming in Mindanao, a less popular but environmentally-friendly alternative form of agriculture.

Kinaiyahan Foundation and the Food Sovereignty Watch said organic and biodynamic farming is actually being practiced already in at least four provinces on the island. *(See related story on Page A17.)*

The NGOs said there are about 3,000 farmers from South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, North Cotabato and Maguindanao, who shifted to organic and biodynamic farming and are gaining ground moving away from using highly synthetic chemicals in their farming practices.

Betty Cabazares, of Kinaiyahan Foundation, said many farmers could still not free themselves from inorganic farming, or the farming method that extensively uses synthetic and poisonous chemicals.

"Herbicide and banned pesticide like Paraquat has no known antidote," she said.

Cabazares said NGOs are continuously promoting organically-grown products and have been conducting a massive education campaign for a shift to organic and biodynamic farming, techniques that use natural and nonpoisonous pesticides, insects to fight infestations and fertilizers.

Kinaiyahan Foundation said it has been working with lumad communities in Marilog District here through trainings and exposure to existing farms practicing sustainable agriculture.

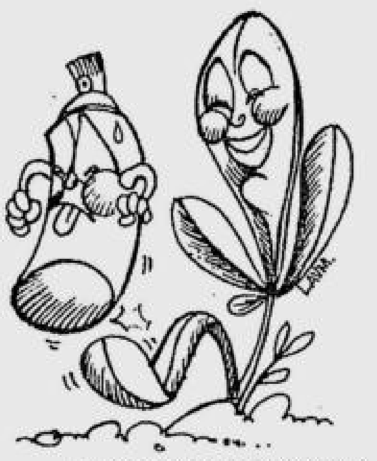
Another NGO, which introduced alternative agriculture practice, is the Don Bosco Diocesan Youth Center based in Makilala, North Cotabato.

Don Bosco is the prime mover of biodynamic farming in different provinces in Mindanao.

Johnny Panganan, of the Don Bosco Diocesan, said like any other NGO, they educate farmers and consumers on biodynamic farming.

Farmers, according to Don Bosco, are now attracted to their system of farming because it is not dependent on costly and hazardous chemicals.

The Enterprise Development in Sustainable Agriculture already produced organically-grown crops in Davao City and Davao del Sur. *Joselle Badilla and Rolando Pinsoy with a report from Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANTHONY MISTADES

ROUNDUP

4 slain in Cotabato

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified gunmen on Tuesday killed at least four people in separate attacks here and in Tulunan, North Cotabato, authorities said. In the Tulunan incident, police said farmer Teodoro Laña, 52, and his son Junjun, 21, died on the spot after armed men shot them in Barangay Bagumbayan. Laña's wife Arsenia and her niece Elvie Sambrano, 15, were wounded in the attack. The victims were tilling their farm when they were attacked. Police said land conflict could be the motive. In Krislamville here, also on Tuesday, gunmen shot to death Jainal Mantis, 34, a mechanic, and his wife, Tahiya, according to Insp. Samson Obatay, head of the city's police Special Operations Group. Witnesses said the suspects fled in a single motorcycle.
Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Quake in Mindanao

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Another earthquake rocked central and southern Mindanao and Pagadian City early morning Thursday, the third to hit the area in two weeks, authorities said. On Friday last week and on Nov. 20, mild tremors also hit central and southern Mindanao. As the Intensity 5 quake was being felt in Cotabato City and in Sultan Kudarat around 12:53 a.m., some Muslims fired their guns to ward off evil spirits believed to be behind earthquakes. No damage was reported and authorities in Cotabato City said no one was hurt by stray bullets. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology here, said the quake was traced at the Cotabato trench.
Aquiles Zonio and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Inmate escapes

TUGUEGARAO CITY—A prisoner being escorted to a court hearing escaped from his guard in Barangay Carig here on Tuesday. Police identified the prisoner as Ernesto Calagui, 35, who is facing murder and homicide charges. Senior Supt. James Andres Melad, Cagayan police director, said Calagui told his guard, Santos Calatayud, that he was hungry. Calatayud accompanied Calagui to a canteen near the justice hall but the prisoner took the chance to escape while they were eating.
Villamor Visaya Jr. and Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

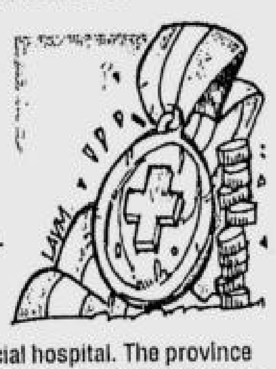
Marian images

PANGIL, Laguna—Two of Laguna's images of the Blessed Virgin Mary will join the 26th Grand Marian Procession in Intramuros, Manila organized by the Archdiocese of Manila next week. These are the image of the pregnant Nuestra Señora de la 'O', which was donated in 1764 by King Carlos III of Spain to the residents of Pangil, and Pakil's image of the Nuestra Señora de la Turumba. The image of the Blessed Virgin de la 'O' is known for various miracles such as the control of the dengue epidemic in Pangil in 1998 and the ending of the six-month flood in 1974. The Nuestra Señora de la Turumba is known to have healed a blind old woman and a sickly child.
Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Laguna school is 50

PAKIL, Laguna—The Liceo de Pakil, formerly Maryknoll High School founded by the Maryknoll Missionaries, celebrated its 50th Foundation Anniversary on Dec. 1-3. Don Bosco Bishop Most Rev. Leo M. Drona led the celebration through a Thanksgiving Mass, which was attended by chaplain and parish priest Msgr. Jose D. Barrion, nuns of the Missionary Catechists of St. Therese (MC-ST), students, alumni and guests. Liceo de Pakil is now part of the Diocesan Catholic School Systems of the Diocese of San Pablo, Laguna.
Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Awards for E. Samar



EASTERN Samar recently received two awards in the fields of health and finance. Gov. Ben Evardone said his province received the "Presidential Award" from the Philippine Hospital Association for remarkable improvement in the delivery of health services in the provincial hospital. The province was also awarded by the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines for its outstanding performance in handling public finance.

Celebrating his 50th Wedding Anniversary was just icing on the cake.

Dahil sa alaga ni Doktor at sa mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, he can live longer and more fruitfully, despite his heart disease.

For Lolo Andy, discovering he had heart disease when he was 60 made him fearful for his and his wife's future. The uncertainty darkened their blissful life. Pero salamat sa Maykapal, sa alaga ni Doktor at ng mga gamot na binuhusan ng research, Lolo Andy today lives happily and fruitfully despite his heart disease. Sulit talaga ang gamot n'ya — gamot na gawa ng Pfizer! Pfizer not only saved his heart, it also helped him and his wife reach 50 years of a love-filled life together. Definitely a milestone worth living for! Sabi nga ni Lolo Andy, dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit.

Dapat Sulit.

Pfizer

Puerto ushers in holidays with Xmas tree

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—WITH THE Christmas season already in the air and the celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception Parish on Dec. 8 just around the corner, some 10,000 residents of this city witnessed the formal switching on of an 90-ft Christmas tree at the Mendoza Park in the heart of the city on Thursday.

The ceremony also served as the start of the month-long "Pista na, Pasko pa" celebration of the city.

Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn said in his message, "this (Christmas) season has always played a great role in uniting not only this city but the entire country as well. Let this giant Christmas tree symbolize the never ending love that God has continued to shower upon us, and let us forgive one another in the spirit Christmas."

At the end of his message, the lights of the 90-ft Christmas tree were switched on to the cheer of some 10,000 residents who flocked around the Mendoza Park to witness the event.

After the switching on, the crowd was again enthralled by a fireworks display that capped the event of the evening. *Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

CHILDREN enjoy the the view from the foot of the Christmas tree while (inset) officials of Puerto Princesa City, led by Mayor Edward Hagedorn (third from right) and wife Ellen (first on the left) celebrate like children. GERALDFORD TICKE/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Logging return in Quezon meets tough opposition

LUCENA CITY—TWO INFANTA Catholic bishops, Quezon government officials and multi-sectoral groups have denounced Malacañang for the reinstatement of the forestry contract of the Timberland Forest Products Inc. (TFPI), which had long been canceled by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"We have fought against the Ifma of that logging company a long time ago, we will again close ranks to oppose it," said Bishop Julio Xavier Labayen, former head of the Prelature of Infanta.

Bishop Rolando Tria-Tirona, current head of the Prelature of Infanta, denounced the government's lack of political will to totally stop the continuous rape of the country's forest.

Street protest

"The people should now all lay down in the streets to prevent the passage of cargo trucks loaded with timber," Tirona said.

Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes also expressed strong opposition to the restoration of the TFPI forest contract.

"The government should now seriously protect Sierra Madre. It's now the country's last forest frontier. Any form of logging in Sierra Madre is abominable," the lawmaker said.

The 25-year Ifma covering 36,660 hectares in the Sierra Madre portion of Quezon province was granted to Bulacan logger Wilson Ng on Nov. 12, 2002, during the term of former Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

However, Alvarez's successor, Elisea Gozun, revoked the Ifma on Jan. 13 last year.

Based on DENR records, Ifma Nos. 2002-07 of TFPI, were reinstated by the Office of the President in its decision dated March 4, 2005.

"I appealed my case to Malacañang," Ng told the INQUIRER in an earlier phone interview.

Labayen urged the people to oppose all forms of logging, legal or illegal. "That Ifma is just a cover-up. It's real target is to conduct massive logging operations."

The activist bishop warned that the government could not fool the people this time.

Signature campaign

The Social Action Center of the Prelature of Infanta has launched a massive signature campaign not only against the Ifma of the TFPI but also against the continuous logging operation of Green Circle.

Lawyer Romeo Roxas reportedly owns Green Circle, which was allowed to cut hardwood trees.

The report on the reinstatement of Ng's Ifma has long been kept secret by DENR officials in Quezon.

It came out in the open through the INQUIRER in a report last month.

Johnny Glorioso, chair of the Quezon Provincial Multi-sectoral Forest Protection Council committee on information, said the group is studying the option of taking legal action against whoever was responsible for the restoration of Ng's Ifma.

Review

Quezon Board Member Rommel Edano asked officials of the Quezon-DENR to appear before the Sanggunian to explain how TFPI managed to renew its logging operation.

In November last year, after four successive typhoons, close to 1,000 people died in killer floods and landslides and destroyed millions of pesos worth of property in Quezon and Aurora.

Massive logging in Sierra Madre was blamed as the culprit behind the tragedy. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cop, 2 others wanted for killing of girl, 7

CAMP VICENTE LIM, LAGUNA—A policeman and his two other unidentified companions are now being hunted for the killing of a 7-year-old girl and wounding of a businesswoman in Los Baños, Laguna on Wednesday night, police said yesterday.

Chief Insp. Marvin Saro, Los Baños police chief, identified the suspect as PO2 Erick Kaligayahan, an active member of the San Pablo City police station.

He said the suspect was driving his car in front of the public market in Barangay Baybayin when two unidentified armed men alighted from his car and repeatedly shot at victim Marcela Torres, 31, who was then collecting rent from one of the market stalls.

Kaligayahan sped away after the shooting while the gunmen fled to different directions.

Torres survived the attack but victim Trisha Mae Bagnes, who was with her mother at the other side of the road, was fatally hit with a stray bullet in the head.

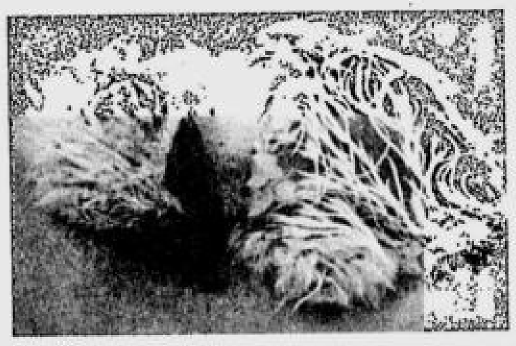
The girl was declared dead on arrival at the Los Baños Doctors Hospital.

Saro said they have notified Kaligayahan's superior, Senior Supt. Elmo Francis Sarona, San Pablo City police chief, about the policeman's involvement in the killing.

He said a business rivalry between the suspects and Torres was a possible motive of the attack. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Hope for eagle population to soar rises with new eaglet

DAVAO CITY—THE Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) produced its first captive-bred eaglet for breeding season 2005-2006.



THE STILL unnamed eaglet. EDISON DAYOS/CONTRIBUTOR

The still unnamed eaglet weighs 158.5 grams and was hatched on Nov. 25 at the Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos, Baguio District here.

It became the 19th Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga Jefferyi*) bred in captivity and a product of the natural pairing eagles Tsai and Princess Maasim.

Domingo Tadena, PEF deputy director for conservation breeding, said the new eaglet needed no help in breaking out of its shell but was placed under intensive monitoring during the first few days.

The eaglet is the first to hatch in the newly built Elias Lopez Facility for Incubation and Rearing, a facility which has an intensive care area for young eaglets during the crucial first month after their hatching.

"Breeding and rearing techniques have greatly improved since Pag-asa was born 13 years ago. We anticipate more eagles as we progress with our research," PEF executive director Dennis Salvador said.

Like all previously hatched eaglets, the newborn will be made available for adoption. The Adopt-an-Eagle program started in 1992 when the center produced its first eaglet through artificial insemination.

The center now has a total of 33 eagles, 17 of which needs godparents who would foot the bill for feeds and other expenses.

In October, giant oil firm Shell Philippines adopted Magiting; a sub-adult male eagle captured in Barangay Anticala, Butuan City in September 2002. The company first adopted Pag-asa in 1992.

PEF has been calling on concerned groups, individuals and companies to be part of the quest to save the national bird.

The Adopt-an-Eagle program aims to provide private individual and companies the chance to give assistance in the rearing of the birds and naming it. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gov't forces search for NPA graves

LUCENA CITY—POLICEMEN AND SOLDIERS, assisted by two dogs, have been tracing the escape routes of New People's Army rebels in several Mt. Banahaw villages in search for more burial grounds of slain communist guerrillas.

Army Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar, said they expected to unearth at least three more dead NPA gunmen.

Broso said the pieces of information furnished them by civilian informers deal with at least four buried communist rebels.

"We were told that one of them was a woman doctor or a medical officer because she was seen treating her wounded comrades. We will continue with our search," he said.

On Wednesday, Army soldiers found a male suspected communist rebel buried in a garbage dump in the boundary of Anastacia and Lusacan villages in Tiaong, Quezon.

The military identified the body as that of a certain Ka Binoy, allegedly a ranking NPA officer in the Bondoc Peninsula area.

The discovered body was buried in Tiaong public cemetery, also on Wednesday.

Broso said the civilian tipster will receive a cash reward of P10,000.

Last week, Solcom offered P10,000 for the discovery of the burial ground of every dead NPA rebel killed in the military's hot pursuit operations.

Chief Insp. Rufina Baldovino, chief of the Quezon police's scene of the crime office, disclosed that based on the traces of blood left in the two houses used by the fleeing rebels in treating their injured comrades, "most probably the wounded would not survive."

"There were lots of blood around. It only indicates that lots of blood were already lost from the injured persons," the police said.

Communist spokesperson Gregorio Rosal admitted that the group of NPA gunmen that attacked six Tiaong policemen on Nov. 20 lost two rebels.

Clashes on the slope of Mt. Banahaw between the Army Scour Rangers and the elite squad of the Melito Glor NPA Command stopped on Thursday. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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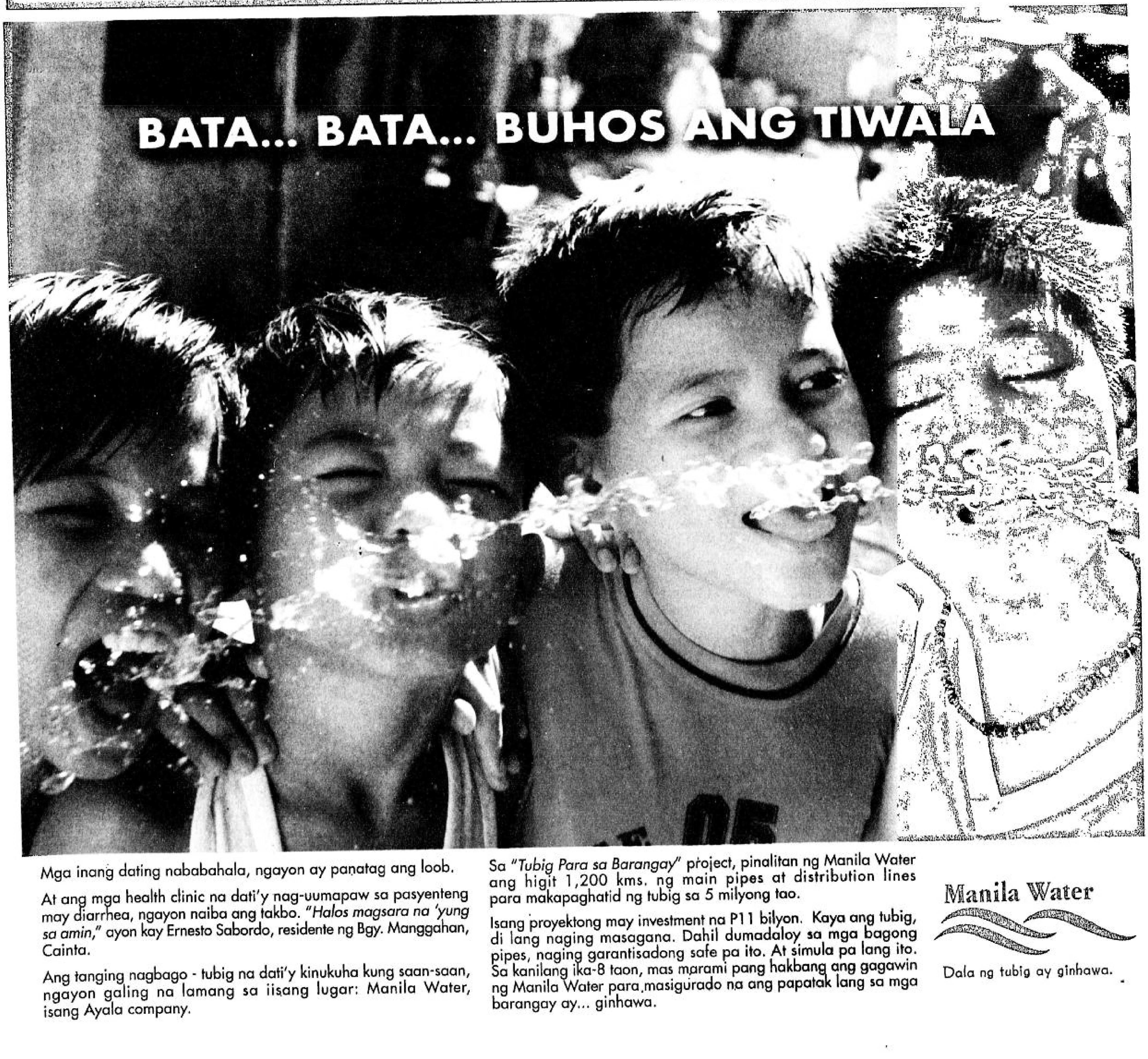

BATA... BATA... BUHOS ANG TIWALA

Mga inang dating nababahala, ngayon ay panatag ang loob.

At ang mga health clinic na dati'y nag-uumapaw sa pasyenteng may diarrhea, ngayon naiba ang takbo. *"Halos magsara na 'yung sa amin,"* ayon kay Ernesto Sabordo, residente ng Bgy. Manggahan, Cainta.

Ang tanging nagbago - tubig na dati'y kinukuha kung saan-saan, ngayon galing na lamang sa iisang lugar: Manila Water, isang Ayala company.

Sa *"Tubig Para sa Barangay"* project, pinalitan ng Manila Water ang higit 1,200 kms. ng main pipes at distribution lines para makapaghatid ng tubig sa 5 milyong tao.

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Manila Water

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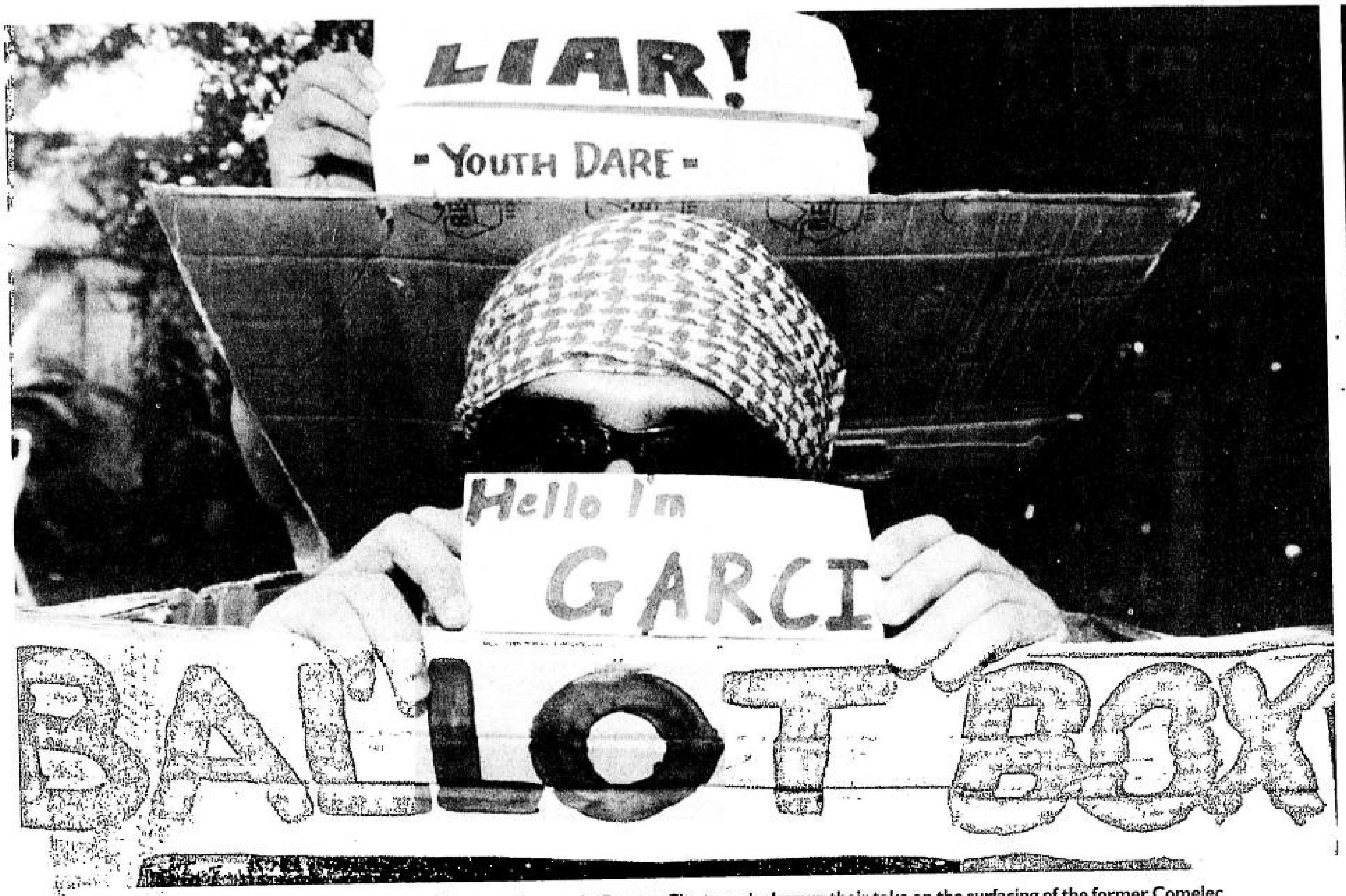


MOVE OVER, JACK. It's Garci-in-the- box presented by a youth group in Quezon City to make known their take on the surfacing of the former Comelec commissioner, which is the biggest joke yet. JOAN BONDOC

Only an 'act of God' can stop Garci's coming out

From page A1

If things go as planned, the three men will fly to Manila at noon today.

"I'm almost certain because we have freely agreed on this. I don't think he will turn back on his word," Tamondong said, adding:

"The only thing that will prevent him from coming out is an act of God."

The minority in the House wants a joint investigation with the Senate on the wiretapping scandal, Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos said yesterday at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo news forum in Quezon City.

Marcos said senators should be included in the "Hello Garci" inquiry because President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies in the House were expected to treat Garcillano with kid gloves.

But in Sen. Joker Arroyo's reckoning, both chambers should ignore the man suspected of rigging the 2004 election for the President.

"I think we should not waste our time on him because whatever he says, the people won't believe anymore. We should not give importance to him," the administration senator said in a phone interview.

Location unknown

Garcillano's specific location is unknown. When Favic and Tamondong arrived in Cotabato City, they went straight to the Estosan Garden Hotel ostensibly to await instructions from him.

"I have been talking with him, but I'm not privy to security arrangements," said Tamondong. He surmised that his client was somewhere in the nearby mountains.

Tamondong and a cousin of his client's, Tomas Garcillano Jr., will serve as legal counsels for the former election official when he testifies at the inquiry.

Garcillano resurfaced on Nov. 27, talking in succession with print and TV reporters and saying that he was willing to go public to prove that he did not rig the 2004 polls.

He had not been seen since he disappeared in June, after the disclosure of supposed wiretapped conversations between him and Ms Arroyo about ensuring a one-million-vote margin for her in 2004.

On Wednesday, Tamondong promised Speaker Jose de Venecia and the chairs of the five House committees conducting the inquiry that he would escort his client to Congress.

"I'm willing to be imprisoned if he does not show up," Tamondong said then, and managed to convince the committees to temporarily lift the arrest warrant issued on Garcillano last Aug. 3.

The committees decided that a "letter of invitation" would instead be hand-carried to Garcillano.

Senate inquiry

Tamondong said Garcillano would not be able to attend the Senate's own "Hello Garci" investigation, which is set to resume on Dec. 8 and to which he had also been "invited."

"It will occur 24 hours after the House inquiry, so we will ask to beg off because of the tight schedule," the lawyer said. "We will also clarify if the inquiry is in aid of legislation, or if Garcillano's testimony is relevant because the focus of the Senate probe is national security."

GARCI LAWYER Ed Tamondong claims that his client will name all the others who had called him during the 2004 elections. ERIK ARAZAS

PERSONAL INVITATION from the House of Representatives to Garcillano is hand-carried by its sergeant-at-arms Bayani Favic to Cotabato City. ERIK ARAZAS

But Representative Marcos observed: "Garci is evading the Senate, and he said he would only appear at the House. We all know that the President's allies will do everything to make the investigation go her way."

"As much as we love our colleagues [in the House majority], it is a tyranny of democracy," she added, referring to how they used their numbers to junk all three impeachment complaints against the President in August.

Marcos said Ms Arroyo herself would rather have Garcillano testify in the House than in the Senate.

The eldest child of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos said Ms Arroyo was confident that since most of the congressmen were her allies, the difficult questions concerning the alleged election fraud would not be pursued in the House probe.

Surprises

Tamondong said Garcillano would spring "surprises" that, although not explosive, would be "revealing."

"He's prepared to name those who had also called him. Those who will be named will be called to testify," the lawyer said.

Both Ms Arroyo and Garcillano had admitted to talking with each other at the height of the vote canvassing last year. Both had maintained that their conversations did not violate election laws.

When pressed to name Garcillano's supposed other callers, Tamondong said: "[The revelation] will cover the entire spectrum of our political landscape, especially the noisy ones."

"If they deny, we will challenge them to undergo a lie detector test," he said.

Worthless statements

But Arroyo said Garcillano's statements would be worthless.

The senator said Garcillano should not be given any importance because he was using Congress for his personal interest.

To illustrate his point, Arroyo noted that even before making a formal appearance, Garcillano had made demands on and won concessions from lawmakers: The House agreed to lift the warrant of arrest; the Senate also decided against issuing a subpoena and instead sent an "invitation."

Administration Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago had even suggested that the Senate grant Garcillano immunity from prosecution to encourage him to tell all.

Arroyo said Garcillano was likely to repeat what he had been saying in interviews with the media—that it was not true he and Ms Arroyo stole the presidential election.

The senator said Garcillano would try to evade grilling on the wiretapped conversations by demanding that "the mother of all tapes"—which former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director Samuel Ong had said was in his possession—be produced.

"That will be his legal defense. He will play around that," Arroyo said.

Filing cases

On Monday, Garcillano will start filing criminal and administrative cases against those who "used and claimed to be in possession of illegal wiretaps" and those who "perjured their statements," Tamondong said.

"Since they have refused to charge my client in any court of law, preferring to besmirch his name by calling him a cheat and liar through the media, we will be the ones to file the cases against them," the lawyer said.

He also said that while Garcillano was eager to face his "inquisitors" in Congress, lawmakers could not ask questions "touching on, referring to, or based on the Garci tapes" because doing so would violate the *sub judice* rule.

He pointed out that a petition questioning the use of illegal wiretaps in the high-profile inquiry from July to August had been filed in the Supreme Court.

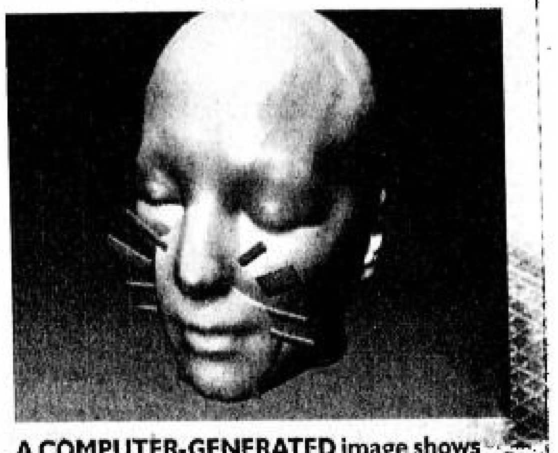
Tamondong said Garcillano's testimony at the House inquiry would put closure to the wiretapping scandal because "the issues will be joined."

By issues, he meant the allegation of election fraud and "all the slanders that they flung" against Garcillano.

"When he was lying low and could not be found, [opposition lawmakers] called him a fugitive. Now that he's coming out, they say he will tell a lie. If that is their attitude, where will we go? They are already prejudging his testimony. It's now clear that they want him to speak what they want to hear," Tamondong said.

The lawyer said that although Garcillano was widely perceived to be close to administration officials, his public appearance was not expected to turn the tide in Ms Arroyo's favor.

"I'm not forecasting any shift in the balance of the present political equation," he said. "It's not to benefit anybody or any group, but to set the record straight." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*



A COMPUTER-GENERATED image shows details of the partial face transplant. REUTERS

World's first . . .

From page A1

her request.

"We are doctors," said Jean-Michel Dubernard, who led the transplant team and who helped carry out the first hand transplant in Lyon seven years ago. "We had a patient with a very severe disfigurement that would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, to repair with classic surgery."

In a news conference at Edouard-Herriot Hospital in Lyon, where the patient was transferred for monitoring of immunosuppressive therapy that will continue throughout her life, the doctors explained how the woman's gruesome wounds almost immediately made her a candidate for the world's first face transplant.

Started with a quarrel

They heatedly denied local news reports that quoted her estranged teenage daughter as saying she was suicidal, raising questions about whether she was psychologically stable enough for the operation.

According to Dubernard, the woman had quarreled with her daughter one evening in May at her home in the northern city of Valenciennes, and the daughter had left to spend the night at her grandmother's. The woman was agitated, he said, and took a sleeping pill. During the night, he said, she arose and stumbled through the house, encountering the dog.

Local news reports have suggested that the woman, who is divorced, fell unconscious and that the dog chewed and clawed her face in an attempt to revive her.

Dog destroyed

But Dubernard said the dog had been adopted from the local pound and was known to be aggressive. The dog has since been destroyed.

As with all transplants, the doctors said, there was about a 33 percent risk of death, a 33 percent risk that the body will reject the graft and only a 33 percent chance that the transplant will prove successful.

Surgical teams in other countries, including the United States, are closely watching the outcome before proceeding with face transplants they are planning.

"We think of all the people who have been disfigured to whom we could give new hope," Dubernard said.

Dubernard said the woman insisted on having the procedure because specialists had told her they could not reconstruct her face because of her severely disfiguring injuries.

Threat of rejection

The woman is recovering well from the operation.

"Everything is perfect," Dubernard said, adding that the woman had not experienced a rejection reaction. But the potential of rejection remains. "I don't know what will happen," he cautioned.

In an effort to help strengthen her immune system's tolerance to keep another person's facial tissue, the patient received a transplant of bone marrow on Thursday from the same donor, Dubernard said. She is also receiving the standard immunosuppressive drugs used with transplants of other tissues and organs.

Woman's permission

From other patients who are living with hand transplants performed as long ago as nearly six years, Dubernard said he had found evidence that marrow in the transplanted bone helped to reduce the amount of immunosuppressive drugs the patient needs.

Citing other specialists who had examined the woman, Dubernard said that reconstructive surgery would have been "extremely difficult, if not impossible" in her case.

"We got her permission several times because we wanted to make sure she understood the risks," because of the highly experimental nature of the procedure, Dubernard said.

A French national ethics committee, which has approved partial face transplants but not full ones, has said that "the very notion of informed consent is an illusion" in such surgery. "The surgeon cannot make any promises regarding the results of his restorative efforts, which are always dubious," the committee's report said.

Question of ethics

The surgical team "had all the necessary authorization" from national and local ethics committees to perform the transplant, Dubernard said. Some experts have questioned why the transplant was done before trying reconstructive surgery and whether the team followed the proper legal and ethical procedures.

In the partial face transplant, the surgeons transplanted a donor's nose, lips and chin.

The New York Times

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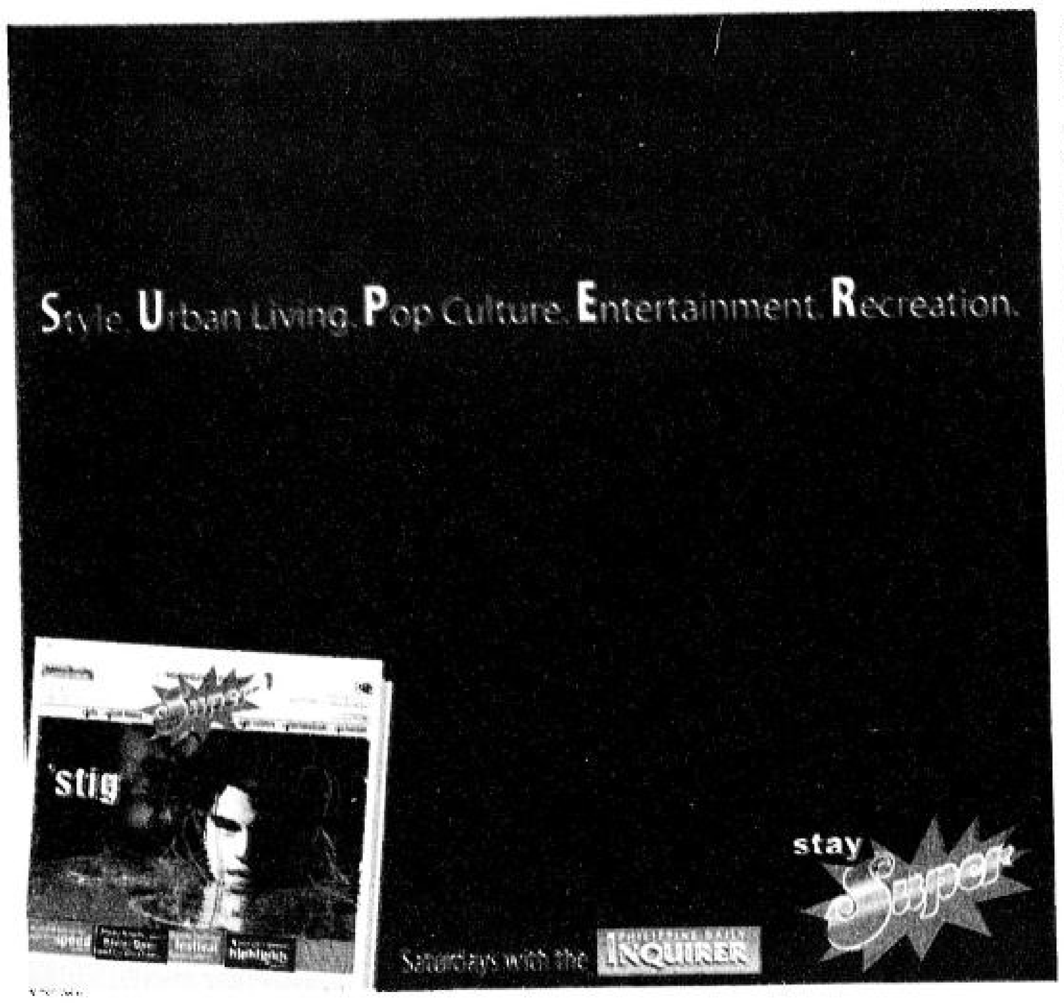

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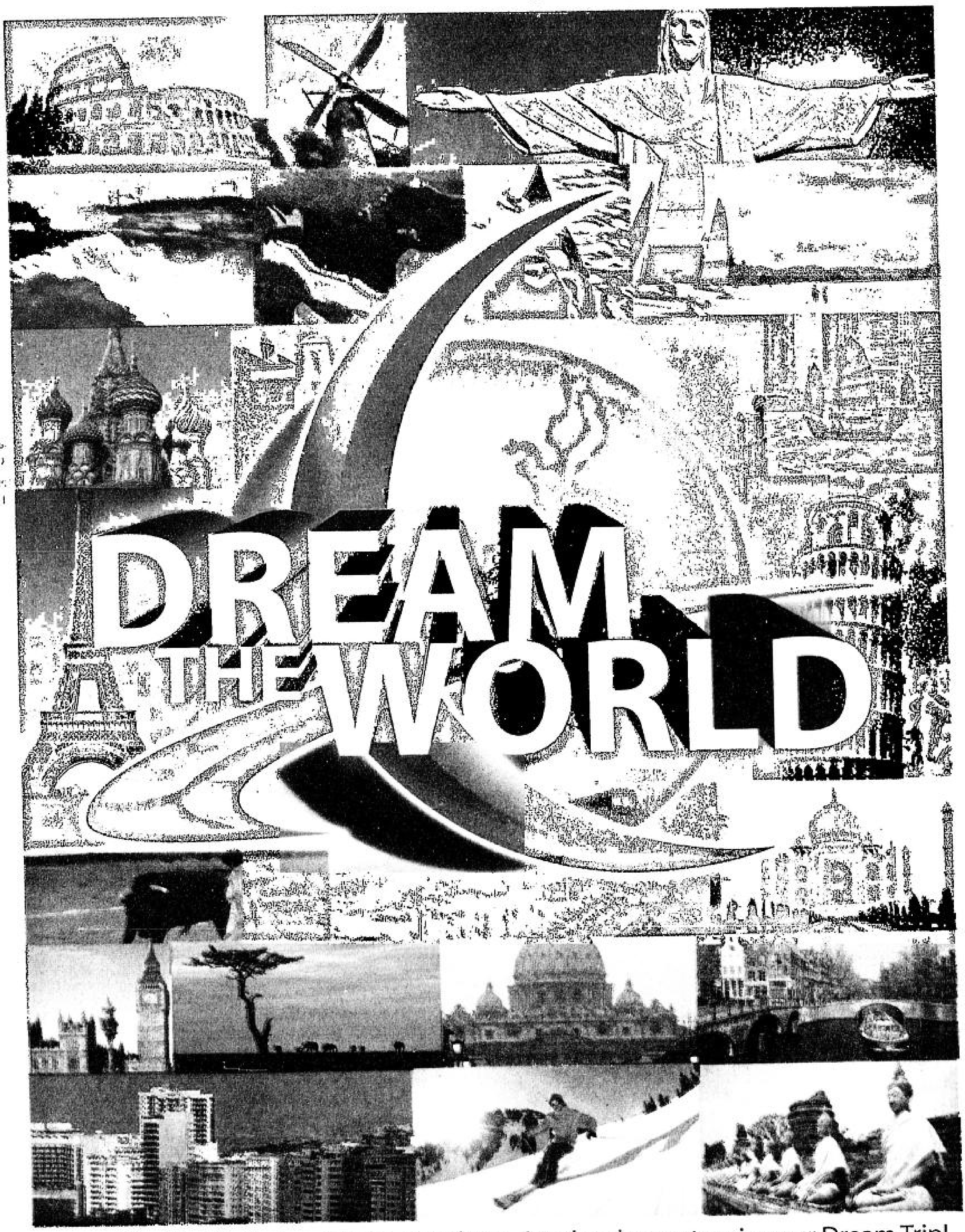
Saturdays with the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

AVANCEÑAS RECALL 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH To mark the 70th anniversary of the inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines on Nov. 15, Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. (third from right) received a life-size bust of the late Chief Justice Ramon Q. Avanceña from Miguel P. Avanceña (fifth from left), the son of the late jurist who was the commonwealth's first chief justice appointed by then President Manuel L. Quezon. Those who witnessed the ceremony were (from left) Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales and members of the Avanceña family Ma. Lourdes Avanceña Arcenas, Martin L. Avanceña and Zeneida Quezon-Avanceña, Justice Reynato S. Puno and Justice Artemio V. Panganiban.

If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you go?



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Promo period is from May 1 to December 31, 2005.

Per DTI NCR Permit Number 1441, Series of 2005

Women lead war vs drugs

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MUNTINLUPA CITY IS TURNING TO GIRL power in the fight against drugs next year.

The Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Office (Dapco), under the theme "Empowering Women, Key to Drug Abuse Prevention," will be tapping women to realize its vision of making the city drug-free by 2010, city hall announced yesterday.

Dapco said women have a vital role in the program as they would be able to closely monitor members of their family who might be susceptible to drug abuse.

They will also be tasked to educate and create awareness among their family members on the bad effects of illegal drugs.

Dapco has also planned a series of family-based programs as part of its antidrug campaign which will be implemented in 2006.

Early this year, the office started posting stickers on the homes of families which had been declared drug-free to make the city's pursuit of drug traders and abusers easier.

VACC head protests release of inmate

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE SWEET NEWS OF FREEDOM FOR PARdoned inmates at the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong City is leaving their victims in pain.

"We were saddened by the information, particularly because we were not informed of the release," Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption founding chair Dante Jimenez told the INQUIRER earlier this week.

JIMENEZ

Drug convict Maxima Cristobal, 72, whom Jimenez is accusing of masterminding the killing of his brother Boboy more than a decade ago, was among the elderly and sickly inmates recently granted conditional pardon by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Jimenez went to the institute recently, hoping he could request a review of the pardon. But Cristobal had already walked out of prison last week.

"The order came from Malacañang. (Cristobal) is already 72. She has also been sickly," prison director Rachel Ruelo said.

But Jimenez is not convinced. He said that while Cristobal has diabetes, the illness "is not life-threatening."

He is asking the President to review her directive of granting conditional pardon to inmates beyond 70.

"They should be more discriminating. They should also let the victims and their relatives participate in the process," Jimenez said.

Otherwise, he warned that his group would be forced to take "drastic actions" and bring the issue to the courts or even to the streets.

His group has already written Ms Arroyo a letter.

"The policy has dangerous implications. Not only does it bring anguish to the victims, but also exposes us to retaliation. Released inmates could also resume their illegal activities," Jimenez added.

Cristobal was convicted for drug-related offenses. She was imprisoned in January 1996.

But Jimenez alleged that she was also the mastermind in the killing of Boboy in December 1990 after drug pushers mistakenly suspected him of reporting their illegal activities to the police.

He said at least 31 inmates had been freed this month, seven of whom were released only yesterday.

METRO
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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Transfer of Binondo schools blocked

By Tina G. Santos

MANILA VICE MAYOR DANNY Lacuna yesterday took up the cudgels for thousands of students who would be affected by the proposed transfer of two schools in Binondo to a new site.

"This is not a mere congratulatory resolution that will not affect anybody. This measure will affect thousands of children from poor families who are working hard to study in order to improve their lot and ensure a better future for them and their families," Lacuna said in a statement.

He criticized the manner in which the City Council allegedly railroaded the two resolutions which would pave the way for the transfer of the two public schools, a move that would affect about 10,000 students.

According to the vice mayor, the proposed measures were not even included in the City Council's agenda for the day. The City Council, composed of 38 members, 32 of whom belong to the majority bloc, approved the resolutions during the same session last week.

Teachers, parents and students of the Rajah Sulayman and Jose Abad Santos high schools are opposed to the proposal to move the schools to make way for a government housing project.

The City Council, however, approved last week the two resolutions which would pave the way for the schools' demolition and their transfer to a new site, about a kilometer away from the current location.

The first measure authorized Mayor Lito Atienza to enter into an agreement with a corporation for the construction of the new school complex while the second one gave him the authority to enter into an agreement with investors for the development of a housing project on the property to be vacated by the schools.

Atienza earlier said the project would greatly benefit the city and the people of Manila.

Councilor Manuel Zarcal, who authored one of the resolutions, had said the transfer would put the students in a new and modern setting conducive to learning since the new school complex would have a language proficiency center, a teachers' dormitory, shops and other amenities.

Zarcal also assured the teachers, students and their parents that there would be no relocation until the proposed school complex is finished.

Santa leaves North Pole; moves to Quiapo area

By Tina G. Santos

FOR HEIDEE MALDA, SANTA Claus is more than just a symbol of Christmas. He is also a constant reminder of the happiness her late aunt, Tina Testa, found in giving and helping others at this time of the year.

No wonder Malda has continued her aunt's passion for collecting images of jolly old St. Nick even almost a year after she died.

The items in the Santa collection, which now number more than 200, were taken from different parts of the globe and come in all shapes and sizes.

"*Nahawa na 'ko sa kanya. Bumibili na rin ako ng mga* Santa Claus *kapag may nakikita akong bago para madagdagan pa yung* collection *niya*," Malda told the INQUIRER.

SANTA Claus figures are never in short supply in Heidee Malda's house on Sebastian Street in Quiapo which neighbors fondly call the "House of Hundred Santas." In fact, there are over 200 figures of jolly old St. Nick in her collection which her aunt, Tina Testa, started in the 1950s. RODEL ROTONI

Collectibles all

Her latest acquisition was a battery-operated Santa holding a flute which plays Christmas songs.

Most of the figures are on a long table in the living room, while the others are displayed around the house.

While admitting that their family's Christmas celebration this year would not be the same without Testa, Malda said she opted to display the Santa collection as "seeing them makes me feel closer to her."

"It feels as if she's just there. I know she would have loved to know that her collection is still in use even long after she's gone," she said, adding that while decorating the house, she talked to her aunt about where each item should go.

"*Nagsasalita ako, 'Tita, saan ba maganda ilagay ang* Santa *na 'to? Pantay na ba, maganda ba ito dito?'* I miss her, we used to do it together," Malda said.

Symbols of happiness

She recalled that her aunt, a former model, liked Santa figures because these radiated the happiness that comes from the spirit of giving at Christmas.

According to Malda, like the generous Santa Claus most people could relate to, Testa used to visit and give gifts during the holidays to orphans in the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul, to lonely old folks at the Hospicio de San Jose and to poor children in Quiapo.

"She really lived up to Santa's image, it's when she became Santa that she became a happier person. They, especially the elders, would surely miss her," Malda said.

Testa's obsession with collecting Santa figures began in the early 1950s when her mother Blanquita gave her what would turn out to be the first two items in her collection just a few days before Christmas.

"Her mom simply glued together two Christmas balls—one large, one small—and pasted the features on. One wears a pair of spectacles and a moustache, and carries a suitcase. She (Blanquita) said it's Tita Tina's brother Tomas," Malda said.

"The other wears a skirt made of paper and carries a small Christmas tree. She said it's Tita. More than the gift itself, she said it was her mother's act of giving which really made her happy," she added.

The house of Santas

Today, the two oldest Santas in the collection have a special place in the "Santa corner" of Testa's house on San Sebastian Street, Quiapo, which is known to most residents as the "House of Hundred Santas."

Testa's collection includes a bubbly Santa, raising a mug of beer and riding on a real, beer-filled bottle instead of his reindeer-pulled sleigh. There is a Santa seated on a rocking chair, another sleeping on a park bench, one climbing down the chimney, another writing out a Christmas list, another figure holding a candle, a *parol* Santa, and a ball-shaped version hanging from a Christmas tree.

The biggest Santa in the collection is almost the size of a toddler while the smallest is about an inch high.

Then there are the "useful" Santas—in the shape of a candleholder, a bell, a mug, a "black Santa" which is a flower pot, a jewel box, and a cookie jar.

Testa's favorite, Malda said, was the Santa Band—figurines holding musical instruments such as violins, cymbals, an accordion and trombones.

While some of the Santas were bought by Testa from stores in Divisoria or Carriedo, many came from Europe and the United States, sent to her by her nephews and cousins who knew of her obsession.

Trip down memory lane

So whenever it was time to put her collection on display, unwrapping each item served as a trip down memory lane for her aunt, Malda said. "As Tita unpacked each item, she remembered the giver. Part of the joy of unpacking is remembering friends who gave her that item."

Not surprisingly, her aunt's collection is a big hit among visitors who trek to the "House of Hundred Santas." "Kids love it," she added, saying strangers from provinces sometimes drop by their house just to view the collection.

The torch has been passed. Malda said that she wants to continue her aunt's good deeds of giving gifts to the needy and poor. More importantly, however, she will keep on adding to Testa's collection, ensuring that her aunt's house would continue to be known as the place where Santas live.

METROBRIEFS

Fire at the US Embassy

A 25-minute fire gutted an office inside the United States Embassy in Manila amid a heavy downpour yesterday afternoon. Investigators said the fire hit an office near the Marine Gate at around 1:25 p.m. The strict security at the embassy, however, prevented firemen from immediately putting out the blaze as they were not allowed to enter until they were given clearance by officials. Arson investigators could not give more details about the incident, saying the embassy would conduct its own investigation into the cause of the fire. The incident happened just as a bomb threat was reported at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate where several sporting events for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games were being held. Tension gripped the audience and participants of a tennis competition after a traveling bag suspected to contain a bomb was found at around 1 p.m. Members of the Manila Police District-Explosives and Ordnance Division were immediately called in as everyone inside the complex was asked to leave. Fortunately, the threat turned out to be a false alarm as the bag was found to contain a uniform and a pair of shoes belonging to one of the players. *Tina G. Santos*

Not the real thing

When pointed at you, it was just as menacing as the real thing which was why the victims promptly gave up their valuables to two men wielding what later turned out to be just a toy gun. Police later caught the suspects, identified as Joel Letran of Barangay Payatas, who along with two others robbed Charito Adario and her companion on Friday night in Quezon City. The victims were waiting for a ride along Litex Road in Commonwealth Avenue at around 10:30 p.m. when they were approached by the suspects. "It looked like the real thing when it was pointed at us," the victim told the police, describing the gun the suspects were wielding, along with a knife. After turning over their valuables, the victims shouted for help, drawing the attention of policemen on board a patrol car led by PO3 Eliseo Cuares who promptly gave chase. Letran was nabbed but his two companions managed to escape. The toy gun was recovered from the suspect who was positively identified by the victims as the one who had robbed them. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Wish Christmas Bazaar

The Alumni Association of Xavier School (AAXS) and the Immaculate Conception Academy Alumnae Association (ICAAA) are hosting today's Wish Bazaar which will be held on the Xavier School covered courts. The bazaar features over 170 stalls and other exciting events like Season of RoXs' show with other high school bands, Pet One's dog show, Xavier's ever popular Blue-Green game and Pee Wee Basketball, and the collectible card game tournament organized by Neutral Grounds. Anno Domini Concepts Inc. (ADCI) is the official Wish '05 Christmas Bazaar organizer. For more information, please call AAXS at 7264855, 7273329, 7230481 local 248; ICAAA at 7212681; ADCI at 7211733, 7210734, 7210766 and 7236652.

St. Luke's holds postgraduate course

A review of modern diagnostic, treatment and management options for pancreatic and biliary malignancies will be discussed at the postgraduate course organized by the Institute of Digestive Diseases of St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) on Friday, Dec. 9, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the 2nd floor conference room. The activity, the highlight of the institute's 13th anniversary celebration, will include a presentation on "Epidemiology, Risk Factors and Clinical Features of Pancreatico-Biliary Malignancy" by Dr. Jesus Y. Perez. This will be followed by a discourse on the "Guidelines on Pre-Operative Staging for Pancreatico-Biliary Malignancy" by Dr. Randy Mercado and "Endoscopic Management of Obstructive Jaundice and Gastric Outlet Obstruction" by Dr. Marvin Basco. Other speakers include Dr. Menandro Slozon who will lecture on "Curative and Palliative Surgical Management of Pancreatic Cancer and Cholangiocarcinoma;" Dr. Leo Marbella on "New Treatment Modalities for Pancreatic Malignancies;" and Dr. Salvador Brodit for "Pain Management of Advanced Pancreatico-Biliary Malignancies." For inquiries about the postgraduate course, please call SLMC at 7230101 local 4118

Turn off the TV and get your child a book, Muntinlupa educator appeals to parents

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE YOUR children better readers, don't let the television babysit them.

"Nowadays, parents leave their children in front of the television for many hours so that they won't be disturbed in whatever household chores they are doing," Maricel Dacuycuy, head of Muntinlupa City's Early Childhood Education Division (ECED), said yesterday.

She advised parents to limit the number of hours their children can watch television everyday. For preschoolers, or those aged three and up, TV time should be set to a maximum of two hours and for toddlers, 15 to 30 minutes, daily.

Starting 'em young

The city's ECED recently conducted a series of seminars to teach parents the importance of getting their children to read at a young age.

The seminars, dubbed as "Teaching Reading to Young Children," targeted the parents of over 5,900 children, aged 3 to 6, who are enrolled in Muntinlupa's 66 daycare centers, Dacuycuy said.

The sessions included workshops and training that taught parents simple and practical strategies on making reading a part of their children's routine.

Among the strategies, aside from turning children to books instead of the television, is to avoid forcing misbehaving children to read books as punishment.

"Some parents would tell their children that if they misbehave, they would let them read. This should not be. This only creates a stigma among them," Dacuycuy said.

Literary-rich atmosphere

The workshops also taught parents to create a literacy-rich environment at home such as making their own instructional materials.

For instance, they could cut out letters from old newspapers and magazines and use these as materials for basic reading activities.

Discarded calendars could also be turned into charts and flashcards, Dacuycuy added.

At the age of two, children should be allowed to hold a pencil under an adult's watchful eyes, to orient them on writing. At age three or four, children should be able to recognize the letters of the alphabet and the sound each letter makes, she said. At age five, children should be able to say three-letter words.

The seminars also addressed the needs of some parents with literacy problems by giving them an orientation on the "ABCs of Reading" to help them develop basic reading skills.

Police draw up 'safety list' for holiday season

By Jocelyn R. Uy

BEFORE YOU GET CAUGHT UP in the holiday rush, remember these safety tips from the police: Leave your Automated Teller Machine (ATM) card at home if you don't intend to use it. Don't bring too much money. Inform a family member of your whereabouts and don't walk in dark alleys.

"These are personal security measures that each one must observe this season. The public must avoid exposing themselves to dangerous situations," Southern Police District (SPD) Director Wilfredo Garcia said yesterday in a phone interview.

He advised shoppers to only bring enough money for the day to avoid being victimized by thieves and holdup men.

Leave home without it

ATM cards, if not needed, should be left at home, he advised, as there is a new syndicate operating in Metro Manila preying on ATM cardholders.

"This syndicate would force a victim to divulge his or her pin number so that they can withdraw the money," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

He also advised people to tell a family member of his or her location.

Hello, is this the police?

Another tip: One must not hesitate to report to the police or security guards any suspicious-looking person.

Since last week, police assistance centers have been installed in major department stores in the southern metropolis in anticipation of an increase in people going out to do their Christmas shopping.

Some 70 policemen from the SPD have been tasked to keep a tight watch over at least eight major malls in the south: Shoe Mart (SM), Greenbelt and Glorietta malls in Makati City, Market! Market! in Taguig City, the SM branches in Parañaque City and Las Piñas, Alabang Town Center, and Manuela Metropolis in Muntinlupa City.

"A lot of people are now trooping to the malls to buy their gifts for Christmas. Our policemen are there to ensure their safety," Garcia said.

Another 1,000 SPD personnel have been tasked to secure vital installations, bus terminals, foreign embassies and major economic key points, like the Global City in Taguig and Filinvest in Alabang.

'Iwas Paputok' program

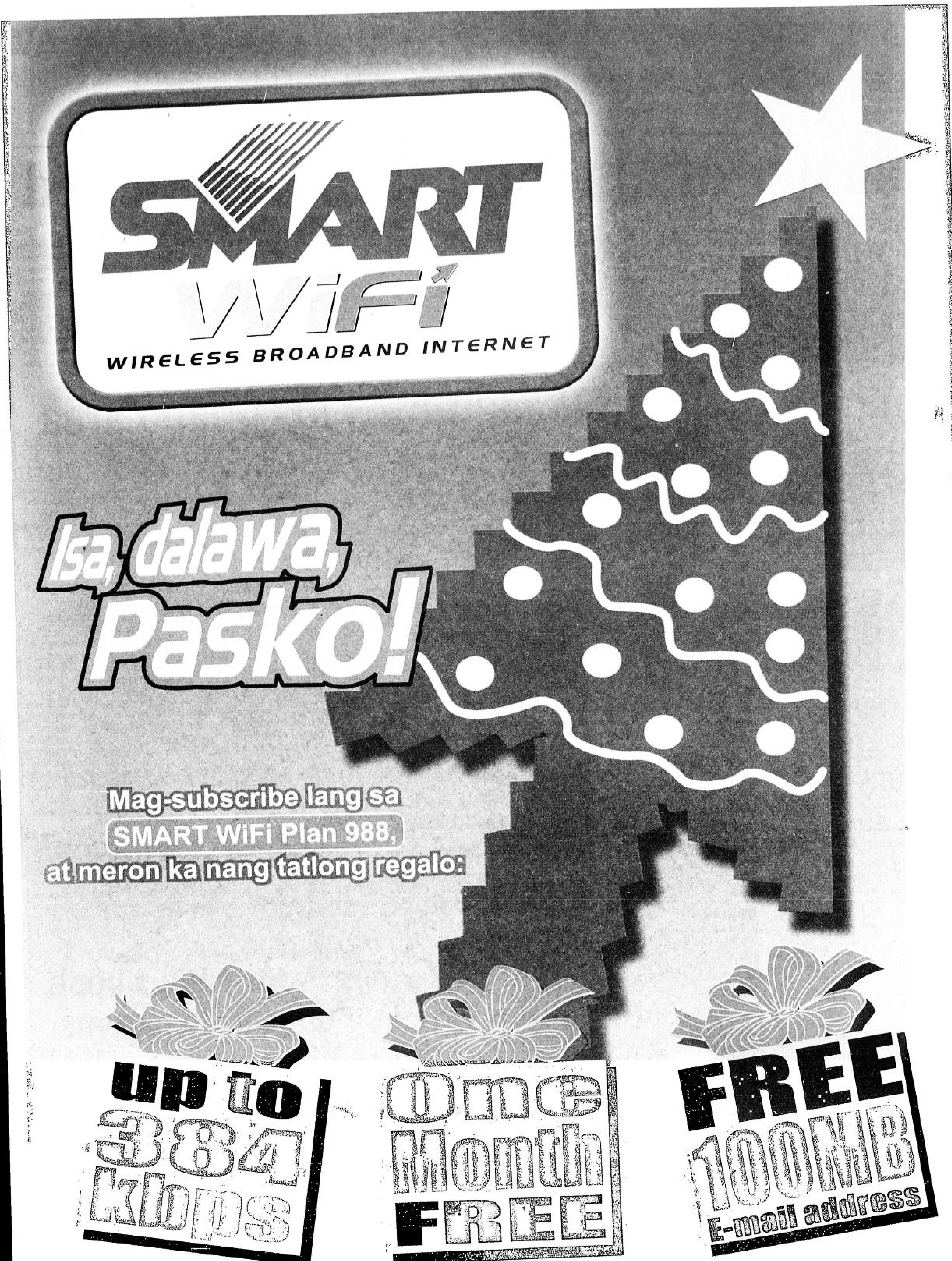
Police have also started going around various cities to implement the National Capital Region Police Office's (NCRPO) "Iwas Paputok" program.

NCRPO Director Vidal Querol recently directed all five police district directors to strictly implement Republic Act 7183, the law regulating the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of deadly firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices, to prevent firecracker-related injuries during the holidays.

Querol also tapped the Department of Health, other law enforcement agencies and local government units in Metro Manila to implement the program.

In southern Manila, police have been alerted against vendors selling illegal firecrackers and pyrotechnic devices in Baclaran, Parañaque City, Garcia said.

Checkpoints shall continue in strategic areas to thwart anyone from sneaking banned firecrackers into the metropolis, he added.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RP boxers triumph; riot averted in finals

THE PHILIPPINES' Annie Albania (left) and Vietnam's Yu Thi Hai Yen embrace each other after their gold medal fight. REM ZAMORA

By Recah Trinidad and Cedelf Tupas,
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE PHILIPPINES rode on the hardy female fighters to capture the 23rd Southeast Asian Games boxing crown at the close of competition that was cut short after a riotous crowd started pelting the arena with coins and assorted debris last night.

After parading a total of 12 finalists—8 men and 4 women—the Philippines beat Thailand 8-6, in the fight for gold medals as the lady boxers made it four-of-five in the finals.

RP finished ahead by two gold medals in the combined tally of both divisions, with the Filipino boxers capturing only four of the nine gold medals available in the men's finals.

The concluding bout between local boy Reynaldo Galido and Thailand's Suriya Prasathinphimai was cut short with the Thai ahead, 11-4, in the first round after the crowd threatened to riot over perceived unfair scoring.

The RP coaching staff decided to retire Galido and surrender the final gold, according to the Aiba technical delegate Shaakill Durrani of Pakistan.

Rep. Monico Puentevella said he ordered an abrupt end to the final bout to prevent a possible riot. "We hope they treat us good in the next SEA Games in Thailand," Puentevella said.

ABAP president Manny Lopez claimed there were poorly scored bouts, but added they were happy for achieving their mission of winning the boxing championship.

The crowd, already disgusted over pro-Thai scoring in an earlier bout, started to go wild and threw debris and coins into the ring after Galido's punches failed to register in the scoreboards.

After Filipina fighters had won their four golds, RP moved ahead of Thailand in the head-to-head boxing medal race, but Thailand won the three final divisions including the one that had to be stopped due to questionable scoring.

Pinweight Juanito Magliquian plucked the first gold in men's competition with a 23-3 stoppage of Myanmar's Zaw Myo Min.

Light flyweight Harry Tañamor followed suit with a clinical mastery of Myanmar's Kyan Shan Aung, RSC-outscored (27-7) in the third round.

Bantamweight Joan Tipon made it three straight by routing Thai Tangtong Klongjian, 27-4.

Featherweight Jogen Ladon knocked down Athens silver medalist Wiprajoh Petchkum of Thailand in the third round, before yielding 22-33 to the protest of the crowd.

Lightweight Genebert Basadre, native of Cagayan de Oro, stopped Miftah Rifai Lubis of Indonesia in the third round (RSC-O, 23-3).

Thai Pechai Soyota, Athens Olympic bronze medalist, beat RP's Romeo Brin, 28-23; Mark Jason Melligen lost a one-sided bout against Non Boojumnong, 15-30, before the fateful final bout.

The victorious RP female fighters were pinweight Alice Kate Aparri over Kyu Kyu Thi of Myanmar, RSC-O, 16-1; flyweight Annie Albania over Vietnam's Yu Thi Hai Yen, RSC-O, 20-8; bantamweight Jouveliet Chilem over Ta Thi Min Hwghia, RSC-O, 23-3, and lightweight Mitchel Martinez over Ratree Kruake of Thailand, 28-10.

A Thai female fighter won the fifth gold.

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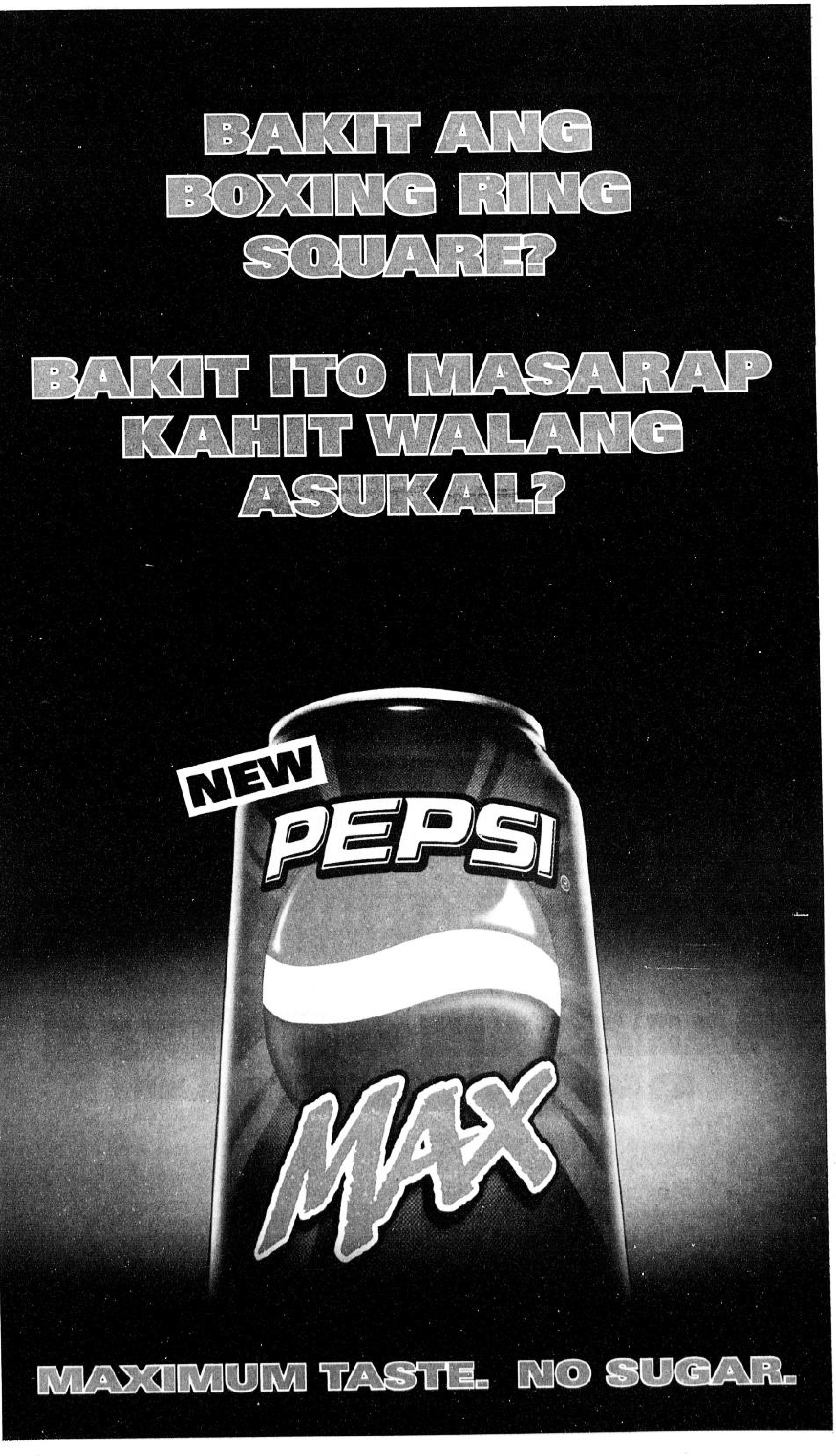
SEA Games MEDAL TALLY

Country	G	S	B	Total
Philippines	89	61	64	214
Thailand	51	63	78	192
Vietnam	50	51	54	155
Malaysia	43	37	44	124
Indonesia	36	47	50	133
Singapore	32	23	44	99

Country	G	S	B	Total
Myanmar	12	20	32	64
Laos	1	3	8	12
Brunei	0	2	2	4
Cambodia	0	1	6	7
Timor Leste	0	0	1	1
Total	314	308	383	1005

Medal tally (As of 8:30 p.m. December 3, 2005)
— from the PSB website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RP rookie Paz hits gold

Beats teammate Chan in women's compound final

AMAYA Paz is hugged by Jennifer Chan after their duel. ROMY HOMILLADA

By June Navarro

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—ROOKIE AMAYA Paz subdued veteran Jennifer Chan in an all-Philippine finals of the women's individual compound in archery of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Remy Field here.

Ranked at the top of the draw throughout, Paz showed consistent form to nose out Chan, 116-114, in their 12-arrow, 70-meter showdown and clinch a gold in her first ever SEAG.

"I didn't feel any pressure at all since it's a sure gold for us either way," said Paz, a 20-year-old psychology major from the University of the Philippines. "Honestly, we're expecting a sweep in this event so I just had fun out there."

The top finisher in the Asian Archery Grand Prix held in Bangkok last February, Paz blasted Yu Nandar Htike of Burma (Myanmar), Lilies Heliarti (Indonesia) and Burmese Tin Zin Ei on her way to the finals.

"My father encouraged me to play archery because this is one sport where Filipinos could get a shot at in the Olympics," said Paz, who picked up the sport six years ago.

Paz tried her hand in the recurve before shifting to compound in 2002.

Joan Tabanag was expected to secure the bronze but she faded in the early rounds. Singapore's Gul Maryanne notched the bronze in the compound at the expense of Tin Zin Ei of Myanmar.

"No hard feelings. Everything we did was for flag and country," said Chan, who will join hands with Paz, Tabanag and Abigail Tindugan in the women's team compound today.

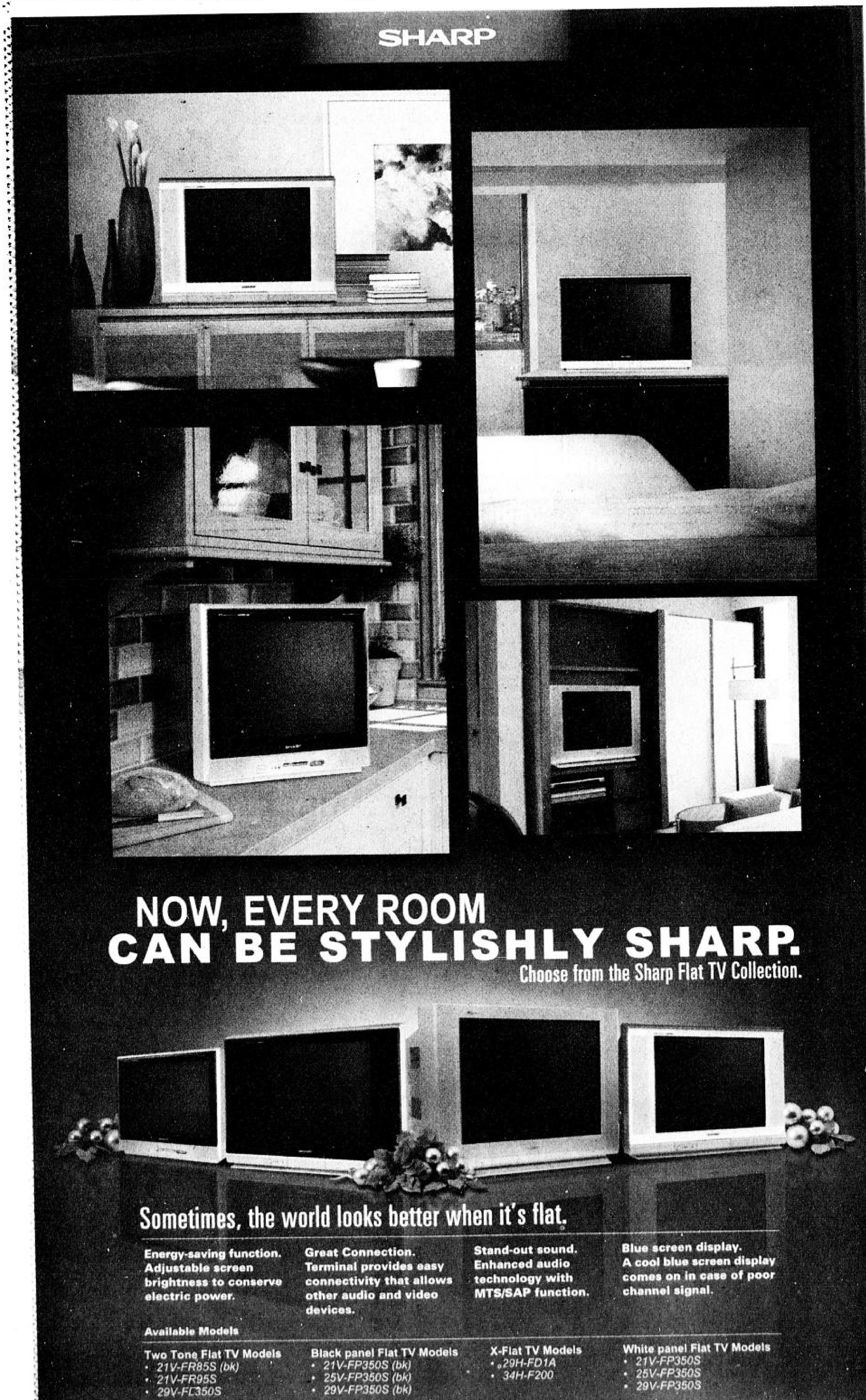
Rachelle Anne Cabral and Marvin Cordero settled for the bronze in the women's and men's recurve as the homegrown archers finished with a 1-1-2 gold-silver-bronze count in the individual events.

Cabral toppled Indonesia's Novia Nuraini, 101-98, while Cordero registered a 105-100 win over Mohd Kaharuddin Bin Asah of Malaysia.

Rina Dewi Puspita Sari of Indonesia, who defeated Cabral, lived up to her billing and squeezed past fellow Indon Yasmidar Hamid, 104-103, to retain the gold in the women's recurve which she captured in the 2003 Vietnam games.

Malaysia's Lang Hon Keong also didn't veer away from the winning track but encountered stiff resistance from fellow Malaysian Ting Leong Fong before claiming the gold, 112-111, in the men's compound.

Myanmar entered the medal column with a gold in the men's recurve after Zaw Win Htike pulled off a 105-99 surprise over heavy-favorite Mohd Khalmisam Bin Wan Ab Aziz of Malaysia.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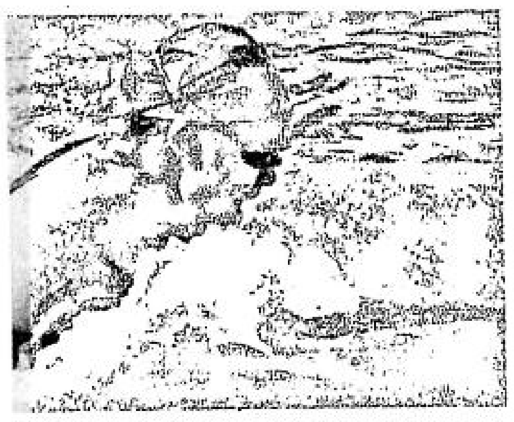


RP'S Erica Totten misses out on the medal in the women's 400m IM. EDWIN BACASMAS

Molina blows bid for fourth swim gold

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS BAÑOS—AFTER CLINCHING THREE GOLDS, Miguel Molina only had strength for a silver medal last night even as Singapore reasserted its supremacy at the close of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games swimming competition at the Trace Aquatics Center here.

Molina blew his bid for a fourth gold in the final five meters of the men's 200-meter freestyle even as Fil-Am James Walsh also narrowly lost the title in the men's 200m butterfly.

"I wasn't expecting to win, I was not sure I can win because I focused more on the individual medley events," said Molina, who swept the 400 and 200 individual golds before breaking his own national record in ruling the men's 200 breastroke.

SWIMMING MEDAL TALLY (final)	G	S	B
Singapore	13	9	11
Thailand	6	9	8
Philippines	4	5	6
Malaysia	4	3	1
Indonesia	4	5	3
Vietnam	1	0	0
Myanmar	0	1	3
Cambodia	0	0	0
Laos	0	0	0
Brunei	0	0	0
Timor	0	0	0

Despite losing the gold in the event which he won two years ago in Vietnam, Molina gamely came back to lead the RP 4x100 medley relay team to a bronze medal.

The country finished with 4 golds, 5 silvers and 6 bronzes to improve its 3-6-5 tally in Vietnam SEAG.

Singapore was the runaway overall winner with a 13-9-11 record marked by a six-gold effort by the unsinkable Joscelyn Yeo, who set a SEAG milestone after topping the women's 50m free.

The 16-year-old Daniel Bego nosed out Molina by clocking 1 minute, 52.67 seconds. Molina did 1:52.83, which surpassed his own national standard of 1:52.89 set during the 2003 Games.

Singapore's Bryan Tay Zhirong came in third at 1:54.39, while 16-year-old Filipino Ryan Arabejo checked in seventh (1:58.54).

Walsh, 16, faded in the final 20 meters against the Indonesian defending champion Donny Utomo, who clocked 2:02.45. But the 16-year-old Walsh nonetheless set a new RP record with a 2:03.23 clocking, improving the 19-year-old mark of Eric Buhain (2:04.19).

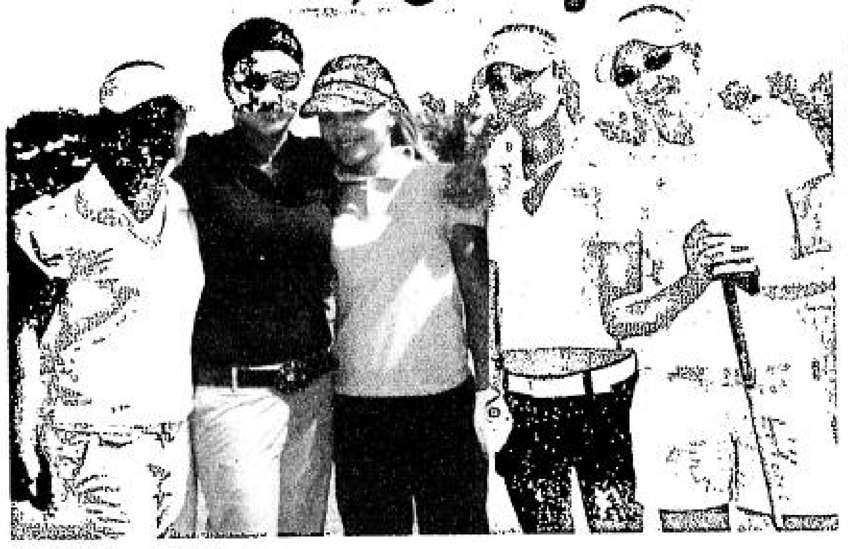
Third place went to Singapore's Gary Tan Lee Yu with 2:04.82, while 16-year-old Filipino rookie Ernest Dee came up sixth (2:07.24).

Indonesia ruled the men's 4x100m medley relay with a time of 3:51.51, edging out Thailand which clocked 3:52.16. The Philippines, composed of Evan Grabador, Raphael Chua, Walsh and Molina, was third in 3:52.35.

Yeo's win in 50m free was her 40th gold medal since joining the meet in 1991 to become the winningest athlete in the history of the biennial meet. She overtook the 39 golds won by compatriot and fellow swimmer Patricia Chan from 1977 to 1983. Yeo also posted a new SEAG mark in scoring the victory, clocking 26.13 seconds which was .1 seconds faster than her (26.23) mark during the 1999 Brunei Games.

Compatriot Shu Yong Ho claimed the silver (26.61), while Myanmar's Aung Moe Tung was third (26.66). *With a report from Don Eric Sta. Rosa*

Pagunsan, RP team out front; Jayvie also leads



LPGA campaigner Jennifer Rosales (second from left) inspires members of the RP ladies team with her presence at The Country Club. From left, Lora Roberto, Rosales, Jayvie Agojo, Frances Bondad and Anya Tanpinco.
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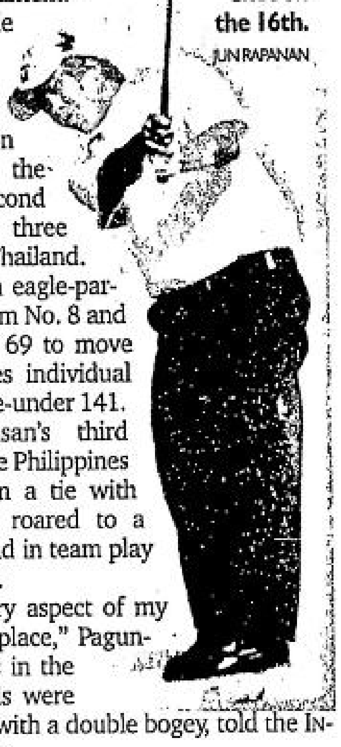
Ace shotmaker fires record 64

By Musong R. Castillo

STA. ROSA, LAGUNA—JUVIC PAGUNSAN set himself up for victory in individual play in runaway style, shooting a course-record six-under-par 64 yesterday that also boosted the Philippine men's team to a huge lead going into the final day of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games golf championship.



PAGUNSAN hits his approach shot on the 16th.
JUN RAPANAN

Pagunsan turned the posh The Country Club course here upside down, firing a scorching 31 on his homeward nine to post an eight-under-par 54-hole total of 202 and an eight-stroke lead in the tournament.

Jayvie Marie Agojo also wrested the individual lead in ladies action while boosting the RP team to second place, just three strokes behind Thailand.

Agojo had an eagle-par-eagle stretch from No. 8 and finished with a 69 to move on top of ladies individual play with a three-under 141.

With Pagunsan's third sub-par card, the Philippines broke free from a tie with Singapore and roared to a seven-stroke lead in team play with a 629 total.

"I guess every aspect of my game fell into place," Pagunsan, whose 69s in the first two rounds were both sprinkled with a double bogey, told the INQUIRER in Filipino.

Jay Bayron matched par 70 and Michael Bibat counted for the first time in three days with a 71 for a 205 total for the Filipinos.

Marvin Dumandan, after two 69s, ballooned to an 81 and failed to count.

Frances Bondad also shot a 69 as the RP ladies totaled 138 for a 284 total. Anya Tanpinco's 70 in the three-to-play, two-to-count format was thrown away.

But Thailand kept the overall lead after Sukintorn Saensradi shot a ladies course-record 67.

"It's just three strokes [Thai ladies' lead] and it could be gone in one hole," said former SEAG gold medalist and LPGA star Jennifer Rosales, who came to cheer the Filipino girls.

Suteera Chanachai finished with a 70 for the second Thai score.

Saensradi trailed Agojo by one in individual play with Srisawang and Bondad two down.

Indonesia dropped out of a share of the lead to third with a 289 led by Lidia Ivina Jaya's 71.

First round men's leader Choo Tze Huang of Singapore signed for a 72, with Leong Kit Wai, the Singaporeans high man for the day with a 70. Goh Kun Yang also turned in a 72 to make up Singapore's 214 for the day for 638 overall.

Burma (Myanmar) clung to third spot in the men's team event, getting a 69 from Bo Bo, and 71s from Zaw Zin Win and joint first round leader Thein Zaw Myint for a 211 and a 640 total.

Thailand was fourth after a 209 built around Pornpong Phatlum's 67 and Nakarintra.

Paz nails gold for RP sailors

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—GERMAN PAZ OVERcame a wave of protests to snare the only Philippine gold in the sailing competitions of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Subic Yacht Club.

Paz outclassed Gusti Made Oka Sulaksan of Indonesia in the sea and survived a complaint heard by a five-man jury on the shore to clinch the gold medal in boardsailing.

"I dedicate this gold to my mother," said the 27-year-old Paz, whose mother, Francisca, passed away after a heart attack a year ago.

The sailor from Anilao, Batangas prevented a victory shutout for the Filipinoss, who finished with a silver and two bronzes.

Singapore scooped up seven golds out of the 12 at stake. Thailand seized two golds, while Myanmar, Malaysia and the Philippines had a gold each.

Paolo Lacdao

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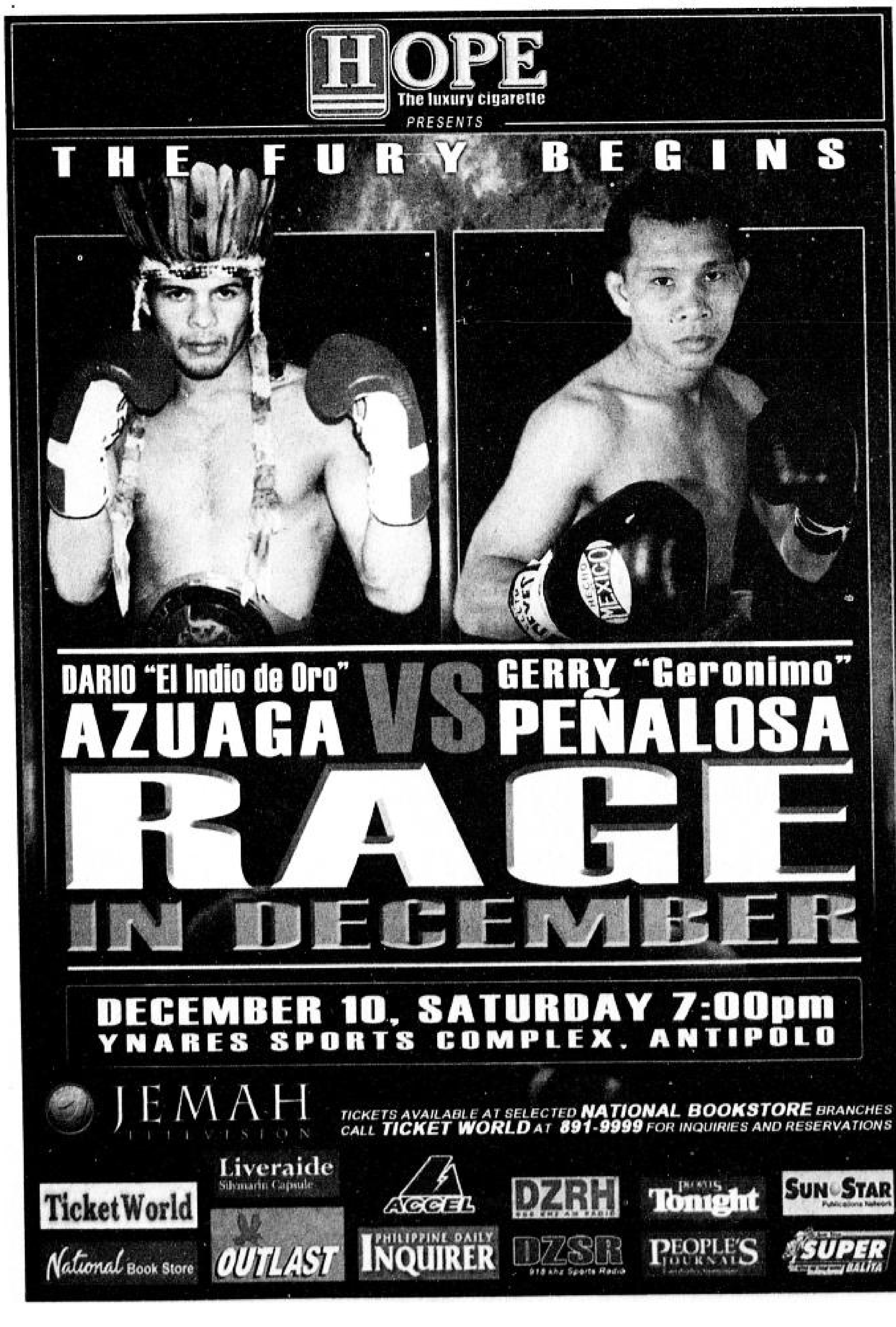
—Shiela Mae Perez, women's 3M individual springboard
—Niño Carog and Zardo Domenios, men's 3M synchronized springboard
—Cesell Domenios and Shiela Mae Perez, women's 3M synchronized springboard
—Kevin Kong and Ryan Fabriga, men's 10M synchronized platform
AQUATICS-SWIMMING
—Miguel Mendoza, men's 1500M freestyle
—Miguel Molina, men's 200M breaststroke
—Miguel Molina, men's 200M individual medley
—Miguel Molina, men's 400M individual medley
ARCHERY
—Amaya Paz, women's individual compound
ARNIS
—Catherine Ballenas, Aireen Parong and Rochelle Quirol, women's team anyo
—Kelvin Calis, Nathan Ben Dominguez and Glenn Llamador, men's team anyo
ATHLETICS
—Jimar Aing, men's 400M
—Henry Dagmil, men's long jump
—Arniel Ferrera, men's hammer throw
—Danilo Fresnido, men's javelin throw
—Rene Herrera, men's 3000M steeplechase
—Mercedita Manipol, women's 10000M
—Marestella Torres, women's long jump
—Ernie Candelario, Jimar Aing, Julius Nierras and Kashus Perona, men's 4x400M relay
BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER
—Ronato Alcano, 15-ball rotation singles
—Rubilen Amit, women's 8-ball singles
—Alex Pagulayan, men's 8-ball singles
—Ronato Alcano and Leonardo Andam, men's 15-ball rotation doubles
—Leonardo Andam, Joven Alba, Alex Pagulayan and Felipe Tauro Jr., men's snooker team
—Lee Vann Corteza and Antonio Gabica, men's 8-ball doubles
—Dennis Orcollo and Alex Pagulayan, men's 9-ball doubles
BOWLING
—Ma. Cecilia Yap, women's singles
—Ernesto Gatchalian and Christian Jan Suarez, men's doubles
CYCLING
—Marites Bitbit, women's cross-country mountain biking
—Alfie Catalan, men's 4Km individual pursuit
DANCESPORT
—Michael Mendoza and Belinda Adora, Latin American dance
—Rico Rosima and Filomena Salvador, standard dance
EQUESTRIAN
—Joker Arroyo, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski, Toni Leviste and Juan Ramon Lanza, team show jumping
FENCING
—Melly Angeles, women's individual epee
—Walbert Mendoza, men's individual sabre
—Veena Tessa Nuestro, women's individual foil
—Denver Atienza, Rolando Canlas Jr., Ramil Endriano and Emerson Segui, men's team foil
—Richard Gomez, Armando Vernal, Avelino Victorino Jr. and Wilfredo Vizcayno Jr., men's team epee
GYMNASTICS
—Roel Ramirez, men's individual artistic gymnastics floor exercises
—Roel Ramirez, men's individual artistic gymnastics vault
JUDO
—John Baylon, men's -81Kg
—Helen Dawa, women's -45Kg
—Gilbert Ramirez, men's -73Kg
—Karen Ann Solomon, women's -70Kg
KARATE-DO
—Gretchen Malalad, women's individual kumite +60Kg
—Marna Pabillore, women's individual kumite -53Kg
—Nelson Pacalso, men's individual kumite -65Kg
ROWING
—Benjamin Tolentino Jr., men's lightweight single sculls
—Jose Rodriguez and Benjamin Tolentino Jr., men's coxless pairs
—Alvin Amposta and Benjamin Tolentino Jr., men's lightweight doubles sculls
SAILING
—German Paz, men's boardsailing Olympic class
SHOOTING
—Juanito Angeles, men's practical shotgun automatic
—Paul Brian Rosario, men's individual skeet
—Patricio Bernardo, Darius Alex Hizon and Paul Brian Rosario, men's team skeet
TAEKWONDO
—Kirstie Elaine Alora, women's featherweight
—Donald David Geisler, men's lightweight
—Tshomlee Go, men's bantamweight
—John Paul Lizardo, men's finweight
—Mary Antoinette Rivero, women's lightweight
—Esther Marie Singson, women's bantamweight
TENNIS
—Cecil Mamiit, men's singles
—Johnny Arcilla, Cecil Mamiit, Eric Taino and Patrick John Tierro, men's team
TRADITIONAL BOAT RACE
—Men's 1000M 10A-Side team
—Men's 1000M 20A-Side team
—Women's 1000M 10A-Side team
WRESTLING
—Jimmy Angana, men's 60-66Kg
—Gemma Silverio, women's 55-59Kg
—Marcus Valda, men's 84-96Kg
—Cristina Villanueva, women's 48-51Kg
—Francis Villanueva, 96-120Kg
WUSHU
—Rene Catalan, men's sanshou 48Kg
—Edward Folayang, men's sanshou 70Kg
—Pedro Quina, men's taolu-nanquan
—Rhea May Rifani, women's sanshou 52Kg
—Arvin Ting, men's taolu-daoshu
—Vicky Ting, women's taolu-jianshu
—Willy Wang, men's taolu-jianshu
—Willy Wang, man's taolu-qiangshu
—Aida Yang, women's taolu-daoshu
—Richard Ng and Lester Pimentel, men's taolu-duilian
—Vicky Ting and Aida Yang, women's taolu-duilian



Vietnam booters seal title clash vs Thais

BACOLOD CITY—GETTING A HUGE LIFTT from its well-rested strikers, Vietnam set up a title rematch with Thailand with a 2-1 decision over Malaysia Friday night in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games men's football tournament at the Panaad Stadium.

Egged on by about 500 Viets in the stadium, Le Cong Vinh and Phan Van Quyen carried the cudgels for the Vietnamese side, knocking in goals 16 minutes apart—40th and 56th minutes—after Malaysia broke the ice through Mohd Nor Bin Ismali in the 34th minute.

The Thais, who beat Indonesia, 3-1, in the semis, are looking to claim their seventh straight crown when they face the Vietnamese booters at 7 tonight with Thailand Deputy Prime Minister Suwat Liptapanlop watching from the VIP section of the Panaad Stadium.

The battle for the bronze between Indonesia and Malaysia will be held earlier at 4 p.m. *Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

2 RP ladies tandems reach b'volley semis

BACOLOD CITY—RANGED AGAINST A WINless team, Thailand-2 thought it would breeze into the Southeast Asian Games men's beach volleyball semifinals here.

But the Filipino duo of Rhovyl Verayo and Parley Tupaz, who failed to win in three games in the elimination stages, had other plans in mind, coming-from-behind to foil the heavily favored pair of Thawip Thongkamnerd and Apichart Bualuang, 14-21, 21-16, 15-10, and gatecrash an impending Thailand-Indonesia show in the semis.

The victory atoned for the early exit of Chad Mowrey and Justin Schnor, who were taken out, 11-21, 21-15, 8-15, by Thais Sonthi Bunrueang and Borworn Yungtin at the St. La Salle court.

In women's play, Fil-Am head-turners Diane Pascua and Heidi Ilustre ousted homegrown bets Cecile Tabuena and Michelle Laborte, 21-13, 21-15, to arrange a semis duel with defending champions Kamoltip Kulna and Jurenee Sannok of Thailand-1. *Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Bowlers stay in hunt

LIZA CLUTARIO, CECILIA YAP, AND MARKWIN Tee produced above-average games after the first block yesterday to lead the RP hunt for the remaining two golds in bowling of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Pearl Bowling Center.

Clutario rolled her highest game of 266 pinfalls in the eighth frame to rank third in the women's Masters with 1862, includiing 50 bonus points for winning five of her eight lane match-ups.

Yap bowled 1811 pinfalls plus 40 bonus points to be in fourth place. Liza del Rosario and Josephine Canare held 10th and 11th places, respectively, after scoring 1747 and 1746 pinfalls. *Eric Abenojar*

Another victory jig for M

Singles gold medalist, Taino reach dou

By Musong R. Castillo

EVEN THE THAIS DANCED TO THIS ONE.

Cecil Mamiit outlasted top seed Danai Udomchoke of Thailand in a marathon match to clinch the men's singles gold in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center yesterday.

Mamiit won, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, at dusk to clinch his second gold after combining with fellow Fil-Am Eric Taino, Patrick John Tierro and Johnny Arcilla to secure the men's team title.

It was also the country's first individual gold since 1999 in Brunei when Maricris Fernandez ruled the ladies' singles, and the first men's singles title after Felix Barrientos 14 years ago also in Manila.

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Indonesia wins badminton overall championship

THERE WAS NO surprise in badminton as Indonesia ran away with the 23rd Southeast Asian Games overall title last night at the Philsports Arena. The Indons finished with four golds, five silvers and a bronze, improving their 3-2-2 tally in Vietnam two years ago. Indonesia won in men's and women's singles, men's doubles and mixed doubles. Except in the women's singles, the three other title clashes were all-Indonesia finals. Malaysia came out second with a 2-1-6 tally. The other gold went to Thailand in women's team. Sony Dwi Kuncoro of Indonesia beat fellow Indon Simon Santoso, 17-16, 15-3 in the men's singles finals. In the all-Indonesian men's doubles finals, Markis Kido and Hendra Setiawan defeated Luluk Hadiyanto and Alvent Yulianto, 15-8, 7-15, 15-6. In mixed doubles, Nova Widianto and Liliyana Natsir won against Anggun Nugroho and Yunita Tetty, 15-6, 15-2. Indonesian Adriyanti Firdasari beat Wong Mew Choo of Malaysia, 11-8, 11-7, in the women's singles. Wong Pei Tty and Chin Eei Hui of Malaysia won the women's doubles. ***JP Abcede and Melissa Bagamasbad***

Thais, Viets ha fights in their

By Musong R. Castillo

THAILAND AND VIETNAM HAVE A mission impossible in their hands.

Running second, a formidable 35 gold medals behind the Philippines for the overall championship in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, the Thais and the Vietnamese are looking at nothing less than a miracle to stop the Filipinos from running away with overall honors.

With just under 100 events to be disputed in the penultimate day today, both the Thais and the Viets need to swim against the tide and post mammoth upsets to gain on the Filipinos, who are primed to winning the overall crown for the first time since joining what was the Southeast Asian Peninsular Games in 1977.

Malaysia, meanwhile, is threatening to unseat either Thailand and Vietnam for a top three finish, jacking up its total to 46 gold, 37 silver and 42 bronze medals, just seven shy of the identical 53-gold medal outputs of Thailand and Vietnam as of 8:30 last night.

It seems the only way the Philippines would miss the overall title is for the three nations to join hands and win more than half of the total gold medals to be staked today under one banner.

And that goes without saying that the Philippine production should be limited to the absolute minimum or to zilch if it is possible.

Team Philippines goes into the penultimate day with a medal count of 88-61-69 and is sure to pad its overall lead with some of the events it traditionally wins in the calendar.

The schedule does not indicate a Thailand domination for the day, with only women's volleyball in Bacolod, snooker at the
um and just a handful
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Pencak silat will stak
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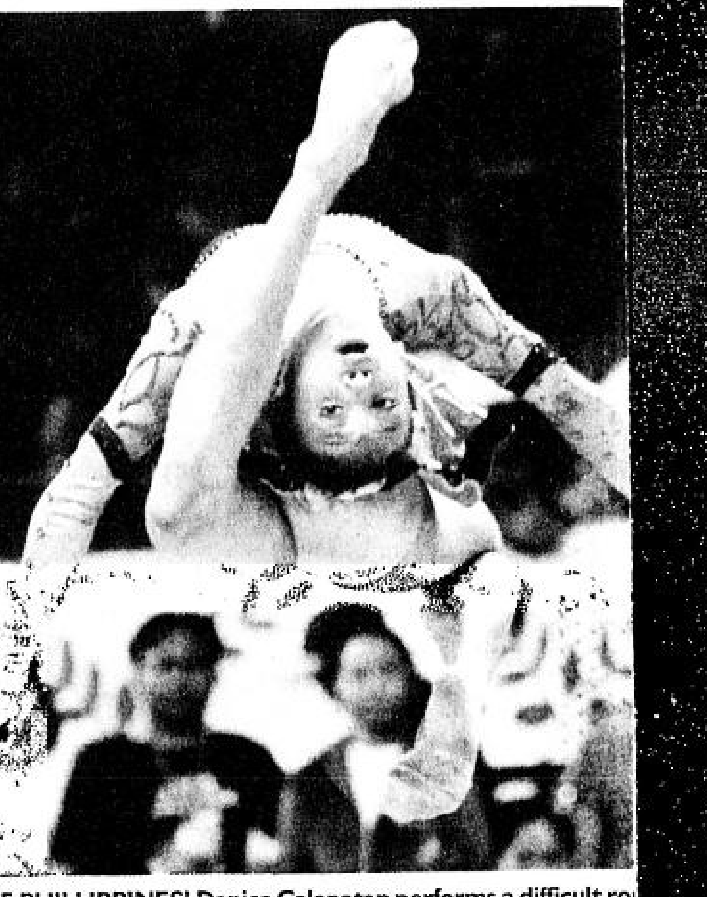
lawnballs, seven in m



THE PHILLIPPINES' Danica Calapatan performs a difficult ro
rhythmic gymnastics semifinals. Calapatan missed out on a me

Marathon caps athletics action

WITH THE OVERALL ATHLETICS championship in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games already out of reach, four entries try to end the Philippine campaign on a winning note when the marathons are flagged off today.

Allan Ballester and Roy Vence are favored to nail the top two places in the men's event and Christabel Martes and Jho-An Banayag are top contenders in the distaff side as the RP athletics team tries to finish with a promised 10 gold medals.

The starting gun will be fired at 5:15 a.m. The races will start and end at the Rizal Memorial oval and will pass through Roxas Boulevard and some stretches of Edsa.

Thailand put the overall title away on Wednesday when Boonthung Srisung won the men's 10,000 meters after Eduardo Buenavista was disqualified for "blocking" the Thai.

A sweep of both marathon divisions today would fulfill athletics association president Go Teng Kok's prediction of "10 gold medals in my pocket." *Hazel Sanculi*

RP, Vietna

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SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

IF IT IS TRUE THAT A TOTAL OF 100 gold medals are at stake today in the 23rd SEA Games, then it's going to be anybody's ball game then, so to speak.

With that number, it can be readily said that no margin is too huge to be overhauled.

Thus, the 20-plus gold medal advantage (I wrote this piece just hours before deadline) of the Philippines over Thailand with one day left in the Games appears like a mere speck, a free-throw margin in a basketball game that can be wiped out in a wink of an eye.

One hundred gold medals is a lot. It's my first time to see that many gold medals staked in a single day in an event involving several countries (11 countries, including the Philippines).

Well, in this biennial meet that we last hosted in 1991, at stake are more than 400 gold medals—439 to be exact—and a country, by a pundit's reckoning, can probably end up overall champion by winning at least 125 gold medals in the nine-day event.

On Dec. 2, or three days before the conclusion of the Games tomorrow, the Philippines had 74 gold medals for a margin of 27 gold medals over the second-running and bitching Thailand (47 gold medals). As I write this yesterday, we had 76 gold medals already.

We never relinquished the lead after scooping up five gold medals on opening day on Nov. 27.

Then we struck a gold mine on Nov. 28 with 20 gold medals. Next, we won 16 and 17 gold medals on Nov. 29 and Nov. 30, respectively.

We've been that productive really for three straight days from Nov. 28.

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Mamiit

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8 world No. 211 Mamiit, who
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Wynne Prakusya had an easy
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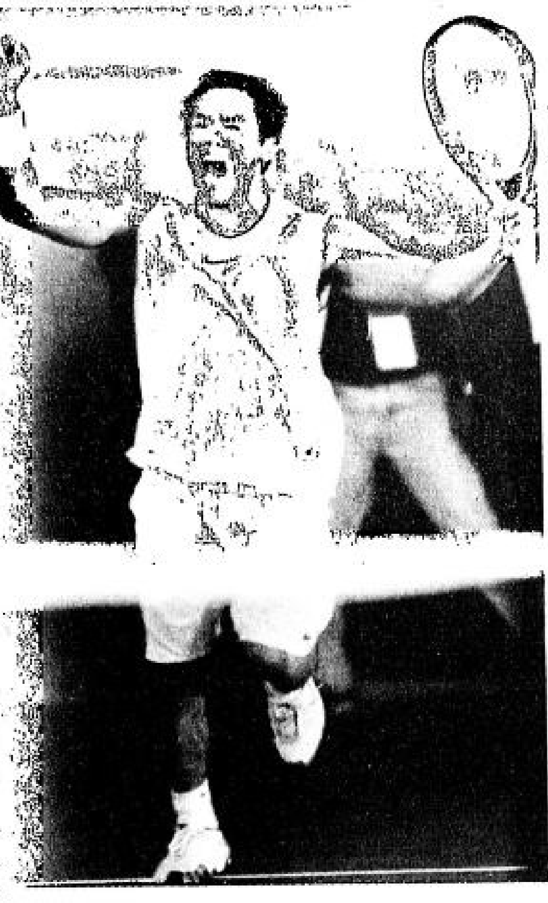
), 6-3, for the women's singles
With a report from Apolinario



CECIL MAMIIT celebrates his victory over top seed Danai Udomchoke. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Filipinos continue strong showing in canoe-kayak

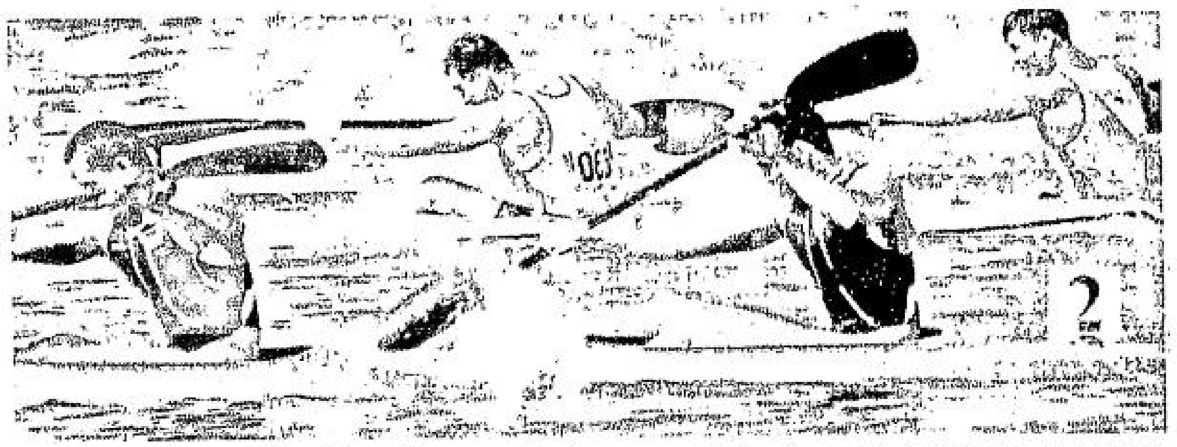
by Jose Paolo Lacdao

SUBIC BAY, OLONGAPO CITY—LADY luck smiled on the Pinoys this time.

With the threat of elimination hanging over their heads, three Filipino paddlers put in masterful performances as the Philippines barged into the finals of the women's K1 and men's K2 of the canoe-kayak action in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games yesterday at the Malawaan Fishing Area.

April Mae Peñalosa held off a stiff challenge from Singapore's Lim Ling Min in the semifinals of the women's K1 to book the last ticket to the finals with a time of 2 minutes 9.51 seconds.

Even more exciting was the come-from-behind feat pulled off by Jonathan Villarino and Jonard Saren in the men's K2 semifinal, where they nosed out Phone Myint Tayzar and Aung Kyaw Moe of Burma (Myanmar) for the fourth finals slot.



JONATHAN Villarino (left) and Jonard Saren pass the Burmese pair during the semifinals of Kayak 2. ROMY HOMILLADA

Villarino and Saren timed 1:39.09, finishing just half-a-boat ahead of the Burmese, who clocked 1:39.66.

The Filipinos joined Marvin Amposta, who set the fastest time in qualifying for the men's K1 class Friday.

The finals in all events will be held today.

Peñalosa was firmly in second place for much of the race, but Lim tried to close the gap in the last 100 meters. But the Singaporean ran out of steam and finished in 2:11.18.

Vietnam's Doan Thi Cach topped the semifinal heat in 2:04.97 finish.

Rounding up the finals cast were Indonesia's Sarce Aronggear and Myanmar's Aye Mi Khaing, who timed 2:02.91 and 2:09.15, respectively, in ruling their respective heats.

Peñalosa finished third behind Aronggear in the first heat with a time of 2:12.90.

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The men's football crown is also favored to be won by the Thais, who have failed to dominate the boxing events the way they have done in the past with the Philippines winning six gold medals as of this writing last night.

Seven more finals are on tap in boxing in Bacolod today and judging from the trend established by the RP Team, the host country is assured of at least two more golds today.

Malaysia is favored in women's bowling with Sulkifli and in lawnballs together with Singapore. But Vietnam, the defending overall champion, is not fancied to make a dent today and could drop down the standings further with only four finals events in chess scheduled tomorrow in Tagaytay.

Marathon will be run today and the Philippines is tipped to win both events, like two more gold medals in softball and another in men's baseball. The Philippines won the first three events in the traditional boat race and the final three events today also favor Filipino entries.

"It's almost impossible for them to catch up with us," said Joseph Dumuk, the co-head of results and documentation of the Philippine Sports Commission-RP Secretariat. "Only a nation that wins 50 or more today and the Philippines not winning at least one will prevent the Philippines from claiming the overall championship."

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lenas combining for 98. 1 points against the 97.5 of the Vietnamese in the women's team anyo event.

Head coach Rufino Montalbo said he was completely surprised with Vietnam's vast improvement.

"I was surprised with their improvement," said Montalbo.

Vietnam prevailed in the men's and women's individual anyo competition behind Nguyen Quang Tung(96.40) and Nguyen Thi My (97.10), who beat Filipino Reggie Sanchez (95.60) and Mylen Garson (93.30), respectively. *Meysil Yamat*

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would have been justified.

Further, if the leadership of the SEA Games Federation had branded Thaksin a poor sport, it would have been justified.

Sanctioning Thailand for the uncalled for act of its Premier would have been justified, too.

Accusing the host country of cheating is bad enough, and coming yet from a head of a state breaks not just the heart but also the pride. It deserves a strongly worded condemnation from all sports-loving nations, not only from the region, but also from all countries of the world adhering to the highest tenets of sportsmanship.

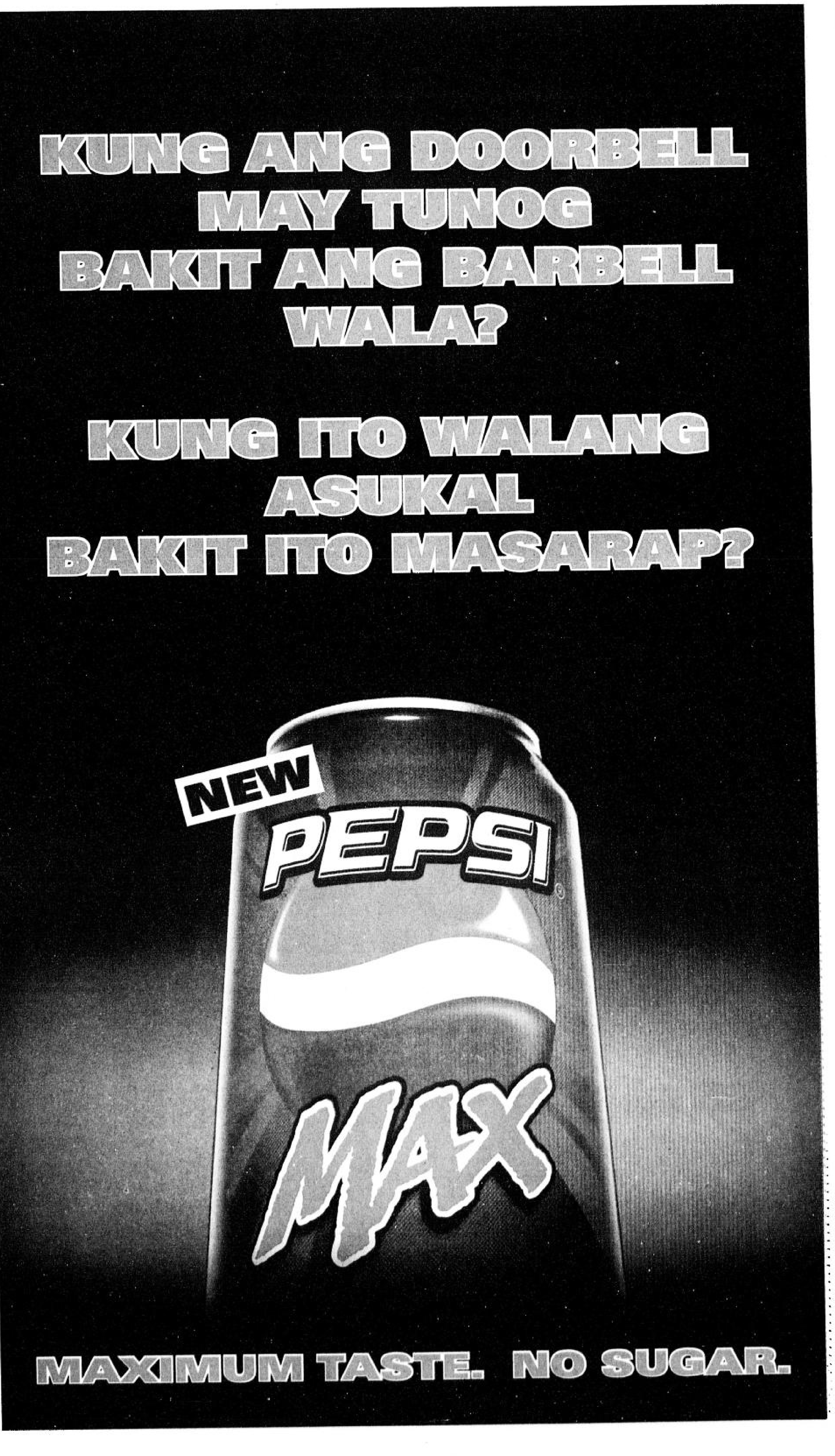
I can almost predict now what Thaksin will say once we emerge overall champion at the end of the Games tomorrow.

It can probably go this way: "To the Philippines, congratulations for a cheat well done."

Look what you've done, GarSEA.

* * *

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net



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Catalan pedals to cycling gold

ALFIE CATALAN BROKE THE GOLD medal drought of the RP men's cycling team as he sprinted away with the gold medal in the four-kilometer individual pursuit of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Amoranto Velodrome in Quezon City.

The cyclists also gave the Philippines a silver medal, in the four-kilometer team pursuit, and a bronze, in the team sprint yesterday.

Catalan checked in at 4 minutes, 59.42 seconds, only .59 seconds ahead of Amiruddin Jamauluddi of Malaysia to grab the gold. Suwandra of Indonesia placed third at 5:07.63. The bronze medalist in the Vietnam SEA Games broke the five-minute mark for the first time in his career.

"I felt pressured when I have someone matched against me so it really helped," noted Catalan in Filipino.

Marites Bitbit gave the country its first gold in the women's mountain bike cross country event.

"This is the event that I really wanted and I thank the Lord for giving me the medal," added Catalan.

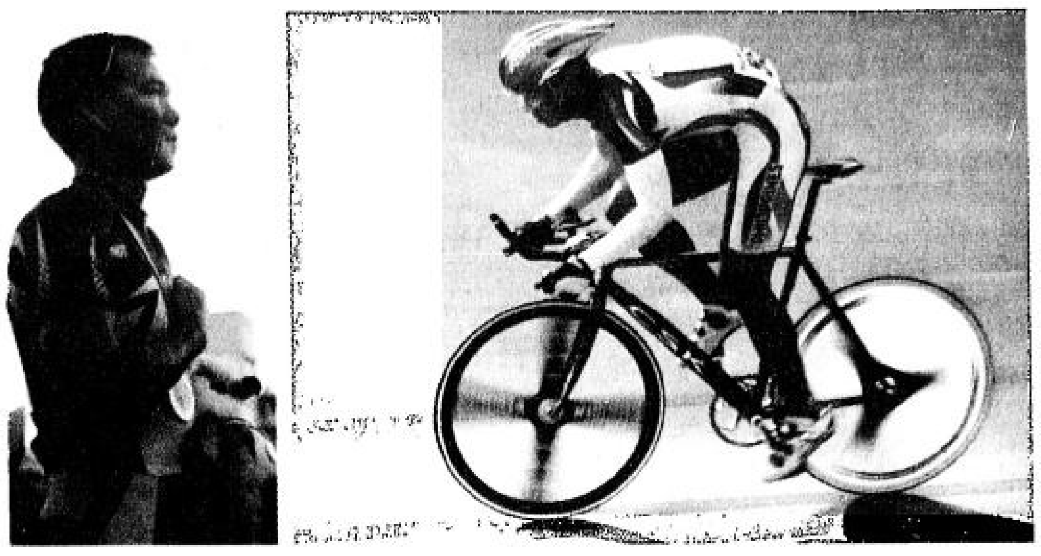
In the team pursuit, the Philippines placed second to Malaysia as the quartet of Arnold Marcelo, Catalan, Paterno Curtan, and Carlo Jazul finished with a time of 4:45.66 seconds, 5.52 seconds behind the Malaysians.

Nilo Estayo, Joeffrey Talaver, and Jan Morales came up with the bronze medal after placing third in the qualifying of the team sprint event.

"I want to congratulate our athletes for the very good performance," said Philcycling president Alberto Lina, who hugged Catalan tightly after the races.

The cycling events of the SEAG wrap up today with the criterium race.

Catalan proved unstoppable despite using a standard track bike that was inadvertently ordered for him by the Philsoc. *Reuben Ezra Terrado*



ALFIE Catalan breaks the five-minute mark on the way to the gold.

Globe
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SEA GAMES SCHEDULES

ARCHERY (*Remy Baseball Field, Subic Bay Freeport*)
8 a.m.—Recurve and Compound (men's and women's team q'finals, semis, bronze matches and finals)
ARNIS (*Emilio Aguinaldo College, Manila*)
10 a.m.—Full Contact -71Kg (men's finals); Full Contact -52Kg (women's finals)
ATHLETICS (*Macapagal Blvd., Pasay City*)
5 a.m.—42.195Km Marathon (men's and women's finals)
BASEBALL (*Rizal Memorial Baseball Stadium*)
1 p.m.—RP vs. Thailand (men's finals)
BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER (*Makati Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—9-Ball Singles (men's q'finals and women's finals and bronze match)
1 p.m.—9-Ball Singles (men's semis, bronze match and finals)
BODYBUILDING (*GSIS Theater, Pasay City*)
1 p.m.—55Kg Light Flyweight, 60Kg Flyweight, 65Kg Bantamweight, 70Kg Lightweight, 75Kg Welterweight, 80Kg Light Middleweight (men's finals)
BOWLING-TENPIN (*Pearl Bowling Center, Parañaque City*)
10 a.m.—Masters (men's and women's 2nd block and finals)
CANOEING AND KAYAKING (*Malawaan Fishing Area, Subic Bay Freeport*)
9 a.m.—500M MK1, MK2, MC1, MC2 (men's finals); 500M WK1, WK2, WK4 (women's finals)
CHESS (*Tagaytay Int'l Convention Center*)
9 a.m.—Standard (men's and women's round 7)
4:30 p.m.—Standard (men's and women's round 8)
CYCLING (*Rizal Park, Manila*)
9 a.m.—Criterium Race (men's finals)
EQUESTRIAN (*Alabang Country Club*)
10 a.m.—Individual Show Jumping (finals)
GYMNASTICS (*Rizal Memorial Sports Complex*)
8 a.m.—Rhythmic Gymnastics (men's and women's individual finals)
3:30 p.m.—Aerobic Gymnastics (men's and women's finals)
JUDO (*Mandaue Coliseum, Mandaue City*)
6 p.m.—55, -60, -78, +78Kg (finals)
LAWN BOWLS (*Hidden Vale Sports Club, Angeles, Pampanga*)
8:30 a.m.—Men's and women's singles, pairs and triples (finals and bronze matches)
MUAY (*GSIS Basketball Gym, Pasay City*)
2 p.m.—Wai Kru Bantamweight (51-54Kg) (women's finals), Featherweight (54-57Kg) (women's finals), Light Welterweight (57-60Kg) (men's finals); Muay 45-48Kg, 48-51Kg, 51-54Kg, 54-57Kg (men's finals)
PENCAK SILAT (*Cebu Coliseum, Cebu City*)
9 a.m.—Tanding (men's classes A-I finals)
2 p.m.—Tanding (women's classes A-D finals)
SEPAK TAKRAW (*University of San Carlos Gym, Cebu City*)
8 a.m.—Men's double regu
SHOOTING (*PNSA Clay Target Range, Muntinlupa*)
9 a.m.—50M Rifle 3-Position (women's finals); Double Trap (men's and women's finals)
SOFTBALL (*Rosario Sports Arena, Pasig City*)
11:30 a.m.—RP vs. Indonesia (women's finals)
2 p.m.—RP vs. Indonesia (men's finals)
TABLE TENNIS (*Ninoy Aquino Stadium*)
9 a.m.—Men's and women's singles semis and finals
TENNIS (*Rizal Memorial Tennis Center*)
12 p.m.—S. Ratiwana/S. Ratiwana (THA) vs. C. Mamiit/E. Taino (PHI) (men's doubles finals)
TBA—S. Suwandi/W. Prakusya (INA) vs. E. Taino/R. Zalameda (PHI) (mixed doubles finals)
TRADITIONAL BOAT RACE (*La Mesa Dam Reservoir, Novaliches*)
9:30 a.m.—500M 10A-Side (men's and women's finals)
10:30 a.m.—500M 20A-Side (men's finals)
VOLLEYBALL-BEACH (*University of St. La Salle Grounds, Bacolod City*)
8 a.m.—Thailand-1 vs. RP-2 (women's semis)
10 a.m.—Indonesia-2 vs. RP-2 (men's semis)
1 p.m.—Women's finals
3 p.m.—Men's finals
WEIGHTLIFTING (*Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel*)
1 p.m.—75Kg (women's finals)
4 p.m.—+105Kg (men's finals)

Basta Pinoy. Posible!

Pinoy judokas score two more triumphs

CEBU CITY—THE COACHES PROMISED that this would be a good day. The athletes delivered on that vow.

The Philippine judo squad flexed its muscles, yesterday, taking the sport's overall lead by bagging a pair of gold medals and a couple of bronzes in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the packed and loud Mandaue City sports complex.

Gilbert Ramirez and Karen Ann Solomon led the charge of the Filipino judokas and fashioned out exciting victories that hiked the country's medal haul in the sport to four golds, one silver and four bronzes going into the final day of competitions.

Erstwhile leader Thailand dropped to second with a 3-4-5 gold-silver-bronze count.

Ramirez trailed Thailand's Alexander Ralli in the final of the -73kg category at the 4:25 mark of the match. But just 20 ticks later, the Filipino scored an emphatic *ippon* (takedown) to seal the triumph.

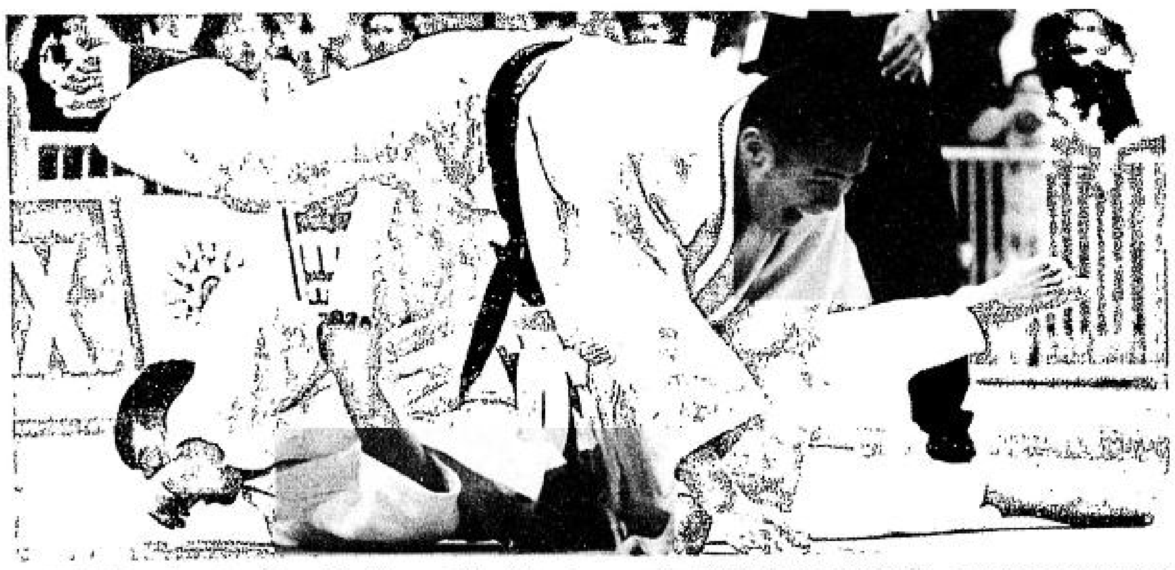
Solomon also had to fight her way out of an impossible situation that even had judo icon and seven-time SEA Games gold medalist John Baylon worrying.

"It might be hard for her to catch up," Baylon noted during the match.

But Solomon did turn the tide against Myanmar's Kalyar Aung Lay in the women's -70kg class.

With four golds already, the Philippines already surpassed its 3-gold haul in the Vietnam staging of this biennial meet. And it will send four judokas to the mat today in the hopes of sealing the sport's overall title.

Ruth Duga-Duga (-78kg.), Erica Joy Ponciano (+78kg), Franco Teves (-55kg) and Daniel Pedro (-60kg) will represent the Philippines, which is trying to meet its projection of seven gold medals. Brian Ochoa and Calvin Cordova, Cebu Daily News, and Marc Anthony Camasura



GILBERT Ramirez (top) ices his victory with a takedown against Thai Alexander Ralli. CDN PHOTO/TONEE DESPOJO

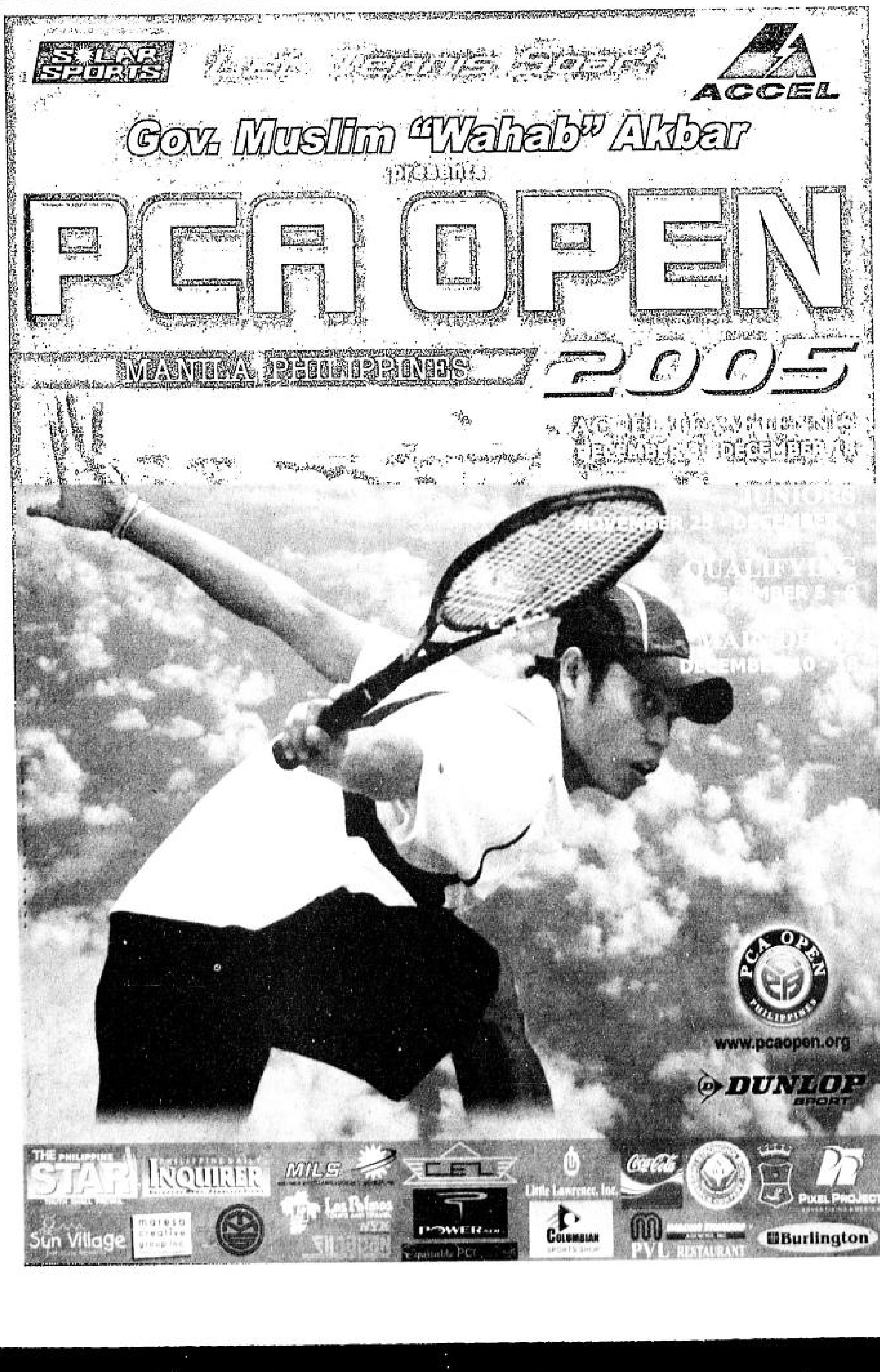
Shooters misfire in Taguig

IT WAS ALL THAILAND YESTERday in the shooting event of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, winning the gold in the men's 25-meter center fire pistol and men's 50-meter three-position rifle at the PSC-PNSA Shooting Range.

Filipino entries Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (pistol) and Edwin Fernandez (rifle) finished sixth and seventh, respectively.

Jakkrit Panichpatikum and Opas Ruengpanyawut of Thailand finished 1-2 in the center fire pistol, racking up 587 and 580 points. Nguyen Manh Tuong of Vietnam scored 578 to take the bronze. Padilla totalled 573 points.

Tavarit Majcharcheep snatched the three-position rifle gold over Malaysian Mohd Hameleay Abdul Mutalib. Tavarit shot consistently the whole afternoon to finish with 1248.2 points. *JP Abcede*



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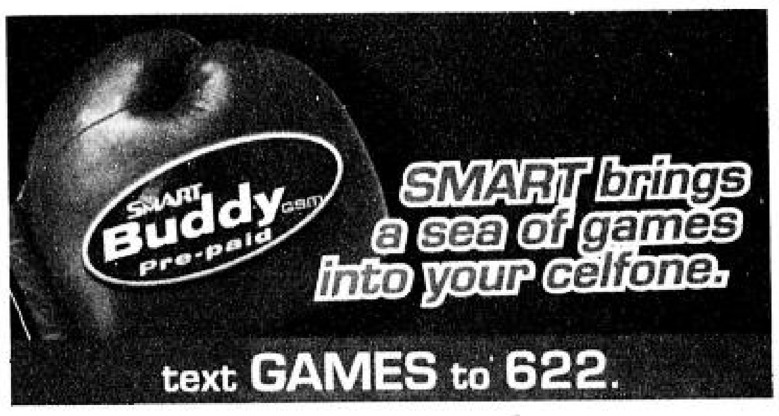
Twin softball title dates for RP, Indonesia

IT WILL BE A PHILIPpines-Indonesia showdown today for both titles in softball of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Rosario Sports Arena in Pasig City. The Blu Girls and the Indons dispute the women's softball gold at 11:30 a.m. while the Blu Boys try to dethrone the Indons in their men's title clash at 2 p.m. The Filipino softbelles finished the two-round eliminations with a 4-1 record, after splitting their last two assignments yesterday. After struggling past Singapore, 2-1, they dropped a 3-2 decision to Thailand, which posted only its first win in four games. The Indons wound up with a 3-2 record in the women's division to secure a title clash with the Blu Girls. The Filipinos, beaten by the Indons in their fight for the men's gold when softball was last held in Indonesia in 1997, go into the finals with a 3-0 record. The Indons are 2-1. *Llanesca Panti*

2 Filipinos eye golds in bodybuilding

TWO FILIPINOS reached the finals of the 23rd SEA Games bodybuilding competition after the pre-judging yesterday at the GSIS Theater in Pasay City. Michael Borenaga and Alfredo Trazona, Jr. barged into the finals of the men's bantam (65 kg) and welter (75 kg) divisions, respectively. The Philippines finished with one silver and one bronze in Vietnam two years back. *Karla Tricia V. Magno*



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Golden Moments

This able rookie won't disppoint

IT WAS EXPECTED.

As the top finisher in the Asian Archery Grand Prix held in Bangkok last February, rookie Amaya Paz was one of the country's best bet for the gold. She did not disappoint.

Paz subdued veteran teammate Jennifer Chan in an all-Philippine finals of the women's individual compound in archery yesterday at Subic Bay Freeport's Remy Field. Ranked at the top of the draw throughout, Paz showed consistent form to nose out Chan, 116-114, in their 12-arrow, 70-meter showdown and clinch a gold in her first ever SEAG.

"I didn't feel any pressure at all since it's a sure gold for us either way," said Paz, a 20-year-old psychology major from the University of the Philippines. "Honestly, we're expecting a sweep in this event so I just had fun out there."

"My father encouraged me to play archery because this is one sport where Filipinos could get a shot at in the Olympics," said Paz, who picked up the sport six years ago. Paz tried her hand in the recurve before shifting to compound in 2002. *June Navarro*

Comeback queen

MARIA CECILIA YAP CAME BACK from a one-month layoff last March to make it in time to the national team for the SEAG after undergoing surgery on her ring finger because of tendinitis. The result of the operation is a nagging pain that occurs whenever she releases the ball and it reaches all the way to her elbow.

Eight months later she reached out from the depths of fifth place and a 47-pinfall deficit with an explosive final game to capture the women's singles gold medal for the Philippines.

The 28-year-old Yap bowled a 257 in the final game to overtake four players and win by 16 pinfalls over Aziela Zandra, Malaysia's 19-year-old sensation.

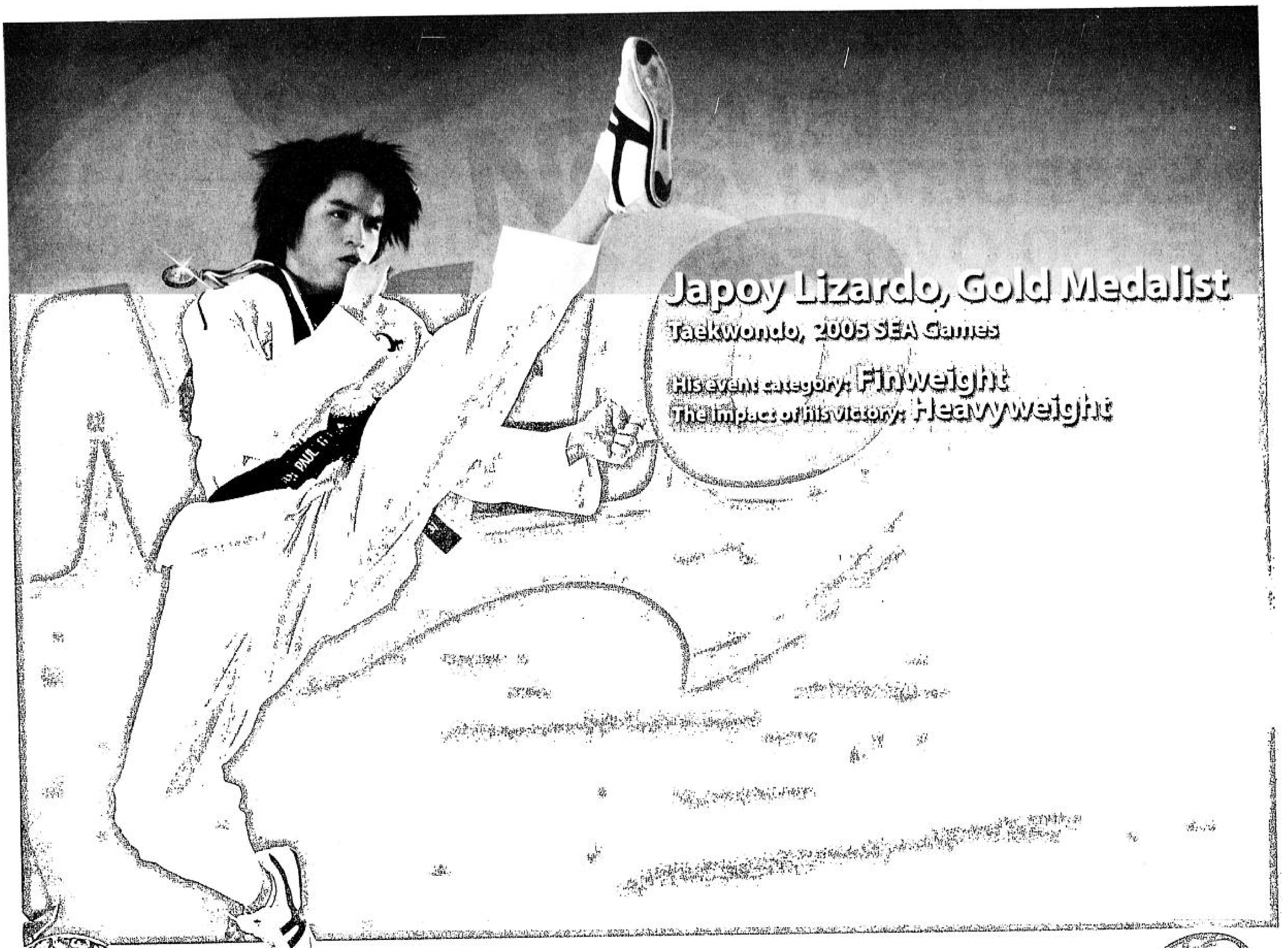
"I did not expect to win," a tearful and ecstatic Yap said after the victory. *Jun Engracia*

Wrong bike

THERE IS NO EXPLANATION FOR a mental lapse regarding equipment to be given to an athlete. Losing is a strong possibility because you put the athlete to a disadvantage even before the start of the event.

But Alfie Catalan did not care. He used a standard track bike that was inadvertently ordered for him by the Philsoc, while his rival, a Malaysian, used a track time trial bike—the correct one.

Catalan, 23, 'delivered for the country in the track's individual pursuit yesterday. He pedaled like hell in his final against Amirrudin Jamaluddin of Malaysia and gained the second cycling gold medal after Marites Bitbit in crosscountry of women's mountain bike. He timed 4:59.51 against Jamaluddin's 5:00.02. *Reuben Terrado*



Japoy Lizardo, Gold Medalist

Taekwondo, 2005 SEA Games

His event category: Finweight
The impact of his victory: Heavyweight

He may have competed in the lightest weight classification in Taekwondo but his triumph weighs tons in terms of glory. He started out in the MILO Summer Sports Clinics and the MILO Little Olympics many years ago and has since successfully carried the load of hopes and dreams of 85 million Filipinos. Indeed, he has made a hefty contribution to boosting our national pride and honor. Congratulations, Japoy and the rest of the Philippine Team. You are all worth more than your weight in gold. **One Team. One Nation. Go Philippines!**

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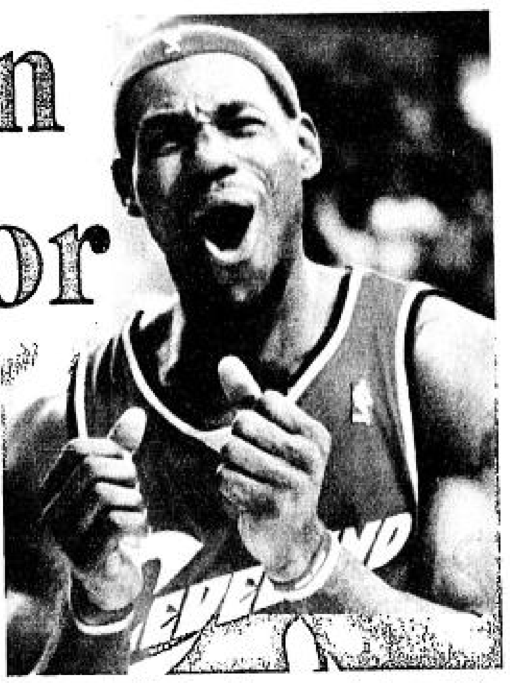
Hamilton shines for Pistons

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—RICHARD HAMILTON scored a season-high 40 points to lead the Detroit Pistons past former coach Larry Brown and the New York Knicks, 106-98, Friday.

Brown returned to an NBA city he used to call home for the seventh time, but acknowledged this reunion was different. The Hall of Fame coach was fired in July, after insisting publicly he wanted to return. He filled the only void on his resume during a two-year stint in Detroit with his first NBA title in 2004 and came just short of repeating last season.

The Pistons improved to an NBA-best 12-2 and the Knicks fell to 5-10. *AP*

SOLAR Sports will air the Miami Heat-Denver Nuggets tussle at 12:30 p.m.



CAVALIERS' LeBron James reacts to a call in favor of the SuperSonics late in the fourth quarter of their game Friday. AP

Complete results

MILWAUKEE 105, Washington 102; Toronto 102, Atlanta 101; Chicago 106, Boston 102; Detroit 106, NY Knicks 98; Memphis 91, Orlando 69 N.O.; Oklahoma City 88, Philadelphia 86; Phoenix 102, Denver 97; Indiana 98, Portland 78; Miami 98, Sacramento 87; Golden State 107, Charlotte 100; Seattle 115, Cleveland 108; Minnesota 113, LA Lakers 108

Santillan stops foe, regains OPBF title

REV "GENTLE GIANT" SANTILLAN KNOCKED out Japan's Kazuhiko Hidaka in the eighth round of their scheduled 12-rounder yesterday to regain his Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation welterweight crown at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

It was a sweet redemption for the southpaw, Iloilo-born Santillan, who was dethroned by Hidaka last March 19 at the same venue.

It was a very close encounter right at the opening bell, as both fighters fought to a frenetic pace, often giving and receiving punches that caused both of them to get groggy at several points of what turned out to be a war.

The fight was so close, even Filipino judge Alex Vidal had the WBC No. 10 Hidaka ahead by one point after seven rounds.

"What a fight," Santillan's manager Rex "Wakee" Salud said in Cebuano in a long-distance interview. "It was a rumble. Very great fight. They were both groggy, but Santillan won in the end." *S. Lagumbay*

SPORTSWATCH

St. Scho kicks off centennial run

THE MISSIONARY BENEDICTINE SISTERS KICKED OFF THE CENTENNIAL CELEbration of St. Scholastica's College with a community fun run yesterday at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex. The Hit The Ground Running-Takbo Para Sa St. Scho fun run drew 6,144 participants composed of nuns, students, alumnae, faculty, family and friends of St. Scholastica. "It is a way of putting us all together from the very beginning of the yearlong centennial celebration," said Sis. Angelica Leviste, president of St. Scholastica's College. After the fun run, a 99-vehicle motorcade took off from the CCP Complex and went to Moriones, Tondo, where the first five missionary sisters from Germany landed 99 years ago.

NCA International Derby set Jan. 16

THE NATIONAL COCKERS ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD THE NCA INTERNATIONAL Derby on Jan. 16, 18 and 20 at the San Juan Coliseum in San Juan, Metro Manila. The event will be hosted by Rizal Gov. Casimiro "Ito" Ynares, the Firefly Group, Danny Valero and R. Pineda. Big-name cockers Joe Wolcott and Larry Whitehead—who along with the Firefly Group are the defending champions—will grace the derby. Ynares and the group of Rene Medina and Ric de Guzman from California, USA, are bringing in some Americans to help them win the international slasher bout. Other familiar faces are Larry Barleta, George Torres, Bruce Barnette, Dan Gray, Travis Clark, Tommy Cooper, Oscar Alkens and O. W. Lainier. The NCA has drawn up an exciting schedule of derbies, which will culminate with the 2nd NCA International Derby on June 19, 21 and 23.

5-stag derby set on Wednesday

TWO COCKERS' GROUPS—THE KAPAMPANGAN GAMEFOWL BREEDERS ASSOciation and Tarlac Gamefowl Breeders Association—have banded together to stage a special 5-stag derby at San Juan Coliseum on Wednesday. Because of the big number of fights (at least 100), the derby will start at 10 a.m. Weight limits are from 1.7 to 2.25 kg only. Another group, the National Cockers Association have earlier joined the growing number of organizations which made the SJC their homebase. The NCA 7-cock derby unfolds on Dec. 12 and 14. Likewise, the Daytime 4-cock derby of Aba Badiola and SJC management sizzles on Dec. 13, 15 and 17. Call 0918-2620338 (Aba), 725-5665, 725-5369 and 727-7086 (look for Ariel).

Pasay derby stakes P1 million

PASAY CITY COCKPIT'S ANNUAL CROWD-DRAWER, THE PASKO NA SA PASAY 5-cock derby is set on Dec. 16 and 18. Pit manager Eric dela Rosa said the guaranteed prize in the event backed by Sagupaan Complexor is P1 million for an entry fee of P10,000. Participants who will score two wins in the elimination round will get a P10,000 bonus each. For details, contact 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-67 50. Meanwhile, a 4-cock derby is also scheduled on Friday, Dec. 9, with P300,000 in cash prizes going to the winners. To be hosted by PCC employees, entry fee is P7,700.

Alta Vista bets lead

ALTA VISTA OF CEBU FINISHED IN the top three of all three divisions and held on to a five-point lead over Rancho Palos Verdes of Davao after the first of three rounds capping the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour 2005 at the Summit Point Golf and Country Club in Lipa, Batangas.

The Cebuanos placed second in Group I and third in both Groups II and III for 32 points in the Summit Point round, bringing to 108 its total for the series that was five points better than the 103 of defending overall champion Rancho Palos Verdes.

Palos Verdes wound up second in Group II, third in Group I and fourth in Group III to bolster its bid to keep the Sta. Lucia Cup, symbol of overall supremacy in the nationwide series featuring eight clubs flying the banner of real estate giant Sta. Lucia Realty.

Eagle Ridge topped Group I and Group II. Leading the individual race were Carl Almario of Alta Vista with 313 in Class A, Byeong Gwan Yoon of Summit Point with 274 (Class B), Jessie Tan of Palos Verdes with 254 (Class C), Carmelo de Jesus of Royale Tagaytay with 209 in Class D.

Bayron, Tarlac top tilt

JAY BAYRON UPSTAGED FELLOW national team mainstay Juvic Pagunsan to win the overall individual crown while Tarlac-Paniqui ran away with the team championship in the "Ka Eliong" memorial and inter-town golf tournament at the Royal Northwoods Golf Club in San Rafael, Bulacan, recently.

Bayron, who with Pagunsan banner the RP team competing in the ongoing Southeast Asian Games, scored 80 points from rounds of 40-40 under the Stableford scoring system to nip Pagunsan by one point in the event held to commemorate the memory of the late Cornelio Pancho, better known as "Ka Eliong" for the Bulakeños and the prime mover of the Royal Northwoods Golf Club.

Pagunsan finished with 38-41 for a 79.

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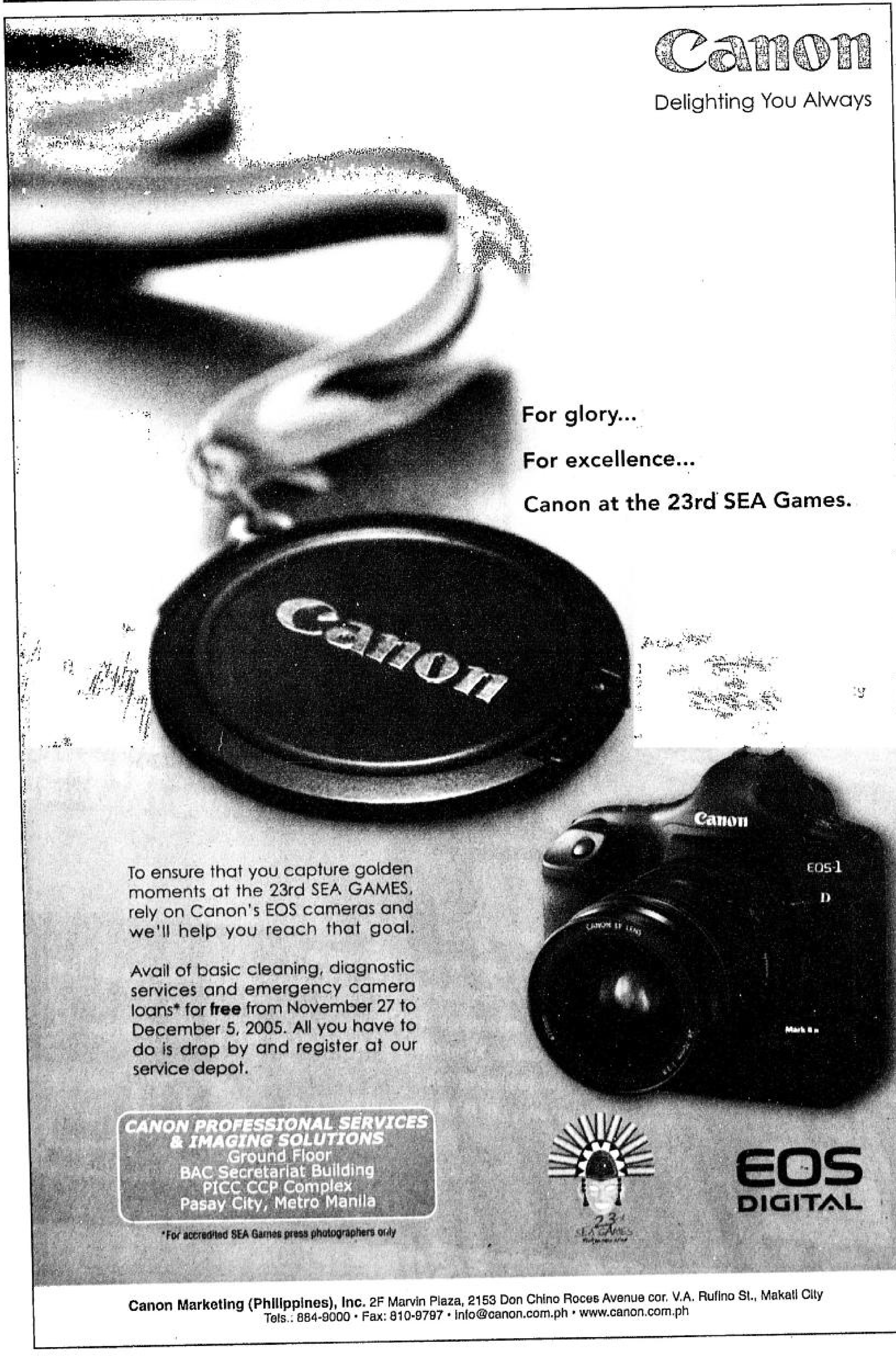

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Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

A big score in Singapore

GMA 7 artists shine in Asian Television Awards

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I COULDN'T SLEEP THE NIGHT BEfore; I was very nervous. Although my producer was sure I was going to win, the news did not come from the organizers themselves. I had to find out for myself."

Nonie Buencamino bagged the Best Dramatic Actor trophy in this year's Asian Television Awards in Singapore on Thursday night. The prize was for his work on the drama series, "Magpakailanman" on GMA 7.

"I consider myself lucky to have been given that role. It was mentally, emotionally and physically challenging. I felt that it was a role that better suited an actor like Christopher de Leon. Heavy drama *talaga*," said Buencamino, who is more known for his compelling performances in theater than onscreen. "I normally play supporting roles in mainstream productions. I'm flattered that the show's producer picked me."

Buencamino played the role of Jaime, husband of an AIDS victim, in "Magpakailanman: Sa Kabila ng AIDS."

The show's lead actress, Lorna Tolentino, received a commendation from the ATA for her portrayal of the role of AIDS victim Madel, who acquired the deadly disease in Hong Kong where she worked as a domestic helper.

Michael V brought home his second Best Comedy Actor trophy from ATA for his work on the GMA 7 gag show, "Bubble Gang." Last year, the comedian won the same honor, while "Bubble Gang" copped the Best Comedy Program plum.

"I didn't think I'd win a second time,"

A BIG/ A2-2

INSIDE

- The Maxi blog A2/6
- MiG 'sick and tired' A3/4

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

SUNSHINE and baby **Angel Francesca**

She 'rests' after this

By Marinel R. Cruz

"BUBOY SAID HE FELT bad that he wasn't around to cut the umbilical cord of our newborn. He did that for our two daughters. He said when our kids grow up, the older ones might pick on the youngest because their daddy was not here when she was born."

Actress Sunshine Cruz said her husband, Cesar Montano, has been in the United States since Dec. 1 and missed seeing her deliver their third daughter, Angel Francesca, on Thursday night.

"Buboy's (Cesar's nickname) agents had booked him for US auditions. He also met with possible investors for a movie he plans to do with Angel Locsin," Sunshine told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Friday. "He had been worried about going away. He kept calling."

Mother and daughter are now resting at St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City. Sunshine gave birth at 7:20 p.m. Francesca weighed 6.7 lbs.

Not planned

"I was supposed to deliver on Dec. 6, but the baby couldn't wait," Sunshine said. Her doctor, Concepcion Ilao-Ureta, has ordered her to stay in bed for a few days.

The two other girls are Angelina Isabelle, 4, and Samantha Angelene, 1.

Sunshine and the baby are expected to leave the hospital today or Monday.

In a previous interview with the INQUIRER, Cesar and Sunshine said that this third pregnancy had not been planned. Samantha had just turned eight months old when the couple discovered that Sunshine was pregnant again.

Goodbye, movies

"After this, I want to rest, *sunod-sunod kasi ang panganganak ko*," Sunshine pointed out. "Buboy and I considered tubal ligation, but my doctor

SHE RESTS/ A2-2

A girl for Jen and Ben, too

ELSE WHERE

NEW YORK—JENNIFER GARNER AND Ben Affleck welcomed a baby girl into the world Thursday.

Representatives for both actors confirmed the birth to The Associated Press. Their publicists, Ken Sunshine and Nicole King, said the child was born at 6:26 p.m. Thursday (Friday in Manila).

"Mother, father and baby are doing great," Sunshine and King confirmed. They would not give any other details.

It is the first child for Garner, 33, and Affleck, 33, who were married in June.

The confirmation came after several media outlets reported the baby's birth—hours before the time of birth supplied by Sunshine and King. E! News said the couple had named her Violet.

It was announced last month that Garner's ABC series, "Alias," will end its five-year run in May. Her pregnancy was written into "Alias" for her character, a globetrotting spy.

AP

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MICHAEL V

Big score…

From page A2-1

Michael V explained. "I was able to talk with the ATA head. He said 'Bubble Gang' didn't win this year because the jokes were not translated well into English. But he added that I won because although the translation was bad, they still found me funny."

"I-Witness: The GMA Documentaries" bagged the Best Social Awareness Program Award for Kara David's investigative report, titled "Buto't Balat."

The award for Best Entertainment Special was given to the country's longest-running noontime variety show, "Eat Bulaga!" for its Silver anniversary special. Television and Production Exponents Inc. (TAPE) produces "Eat Bulaga!" for GMA 7.

"It was very organized," said Buencamino of the awards show held at the National University of Singapore. "The organizer asked us to attend the rehearsal."

"Eat Bulaga!" hosts Tito Sotto, Joey de Leon and Vic Sotto attended the program as awards presenters.

Other hosts—Pia Guanio, Allan K, Francis Magalona, Gladys Guevarra and Wally—flew to Singapore to accept the show's award.

Singer Jay-R teamed up with Singaporean MTV video jock, Denise Keller, to host one of the main segments of the awards show. Rachelle Ann Go was also a presenter.

Sunshine

From page A2-1

said that at 28, I'm too young for the procedure."

Sunshine added: I'm now using a contraceptive that makes it possible for me to not get pregnant for at least five years."

The actress said she had no more plans of doing movies, even if she shed the extra 25 lbs. she gained. "I just want to take care of my kids. I would like to breast-feed Francesca, just like her sisters," Sunshine added.

TV's okay

"TV appearances are okay, but only if Buboy approves of them. He has imposed a curfew—I could only stay out for tapings until midnight."

Cesar and Sunshine tied the knot in September 2000. The actress announced at the time that she was quitting show business for good. The couple's romance began the year before, while filming the movie, "Bullet."

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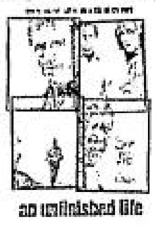

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CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 10:30FS/10:30MF/01:15/04:00/6:45 09:25LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN 11:10FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:05END
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
MANILA
6 THE MYTH 10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/5:20/7:30/ 09:30LFS/09:400LMF/11:40END

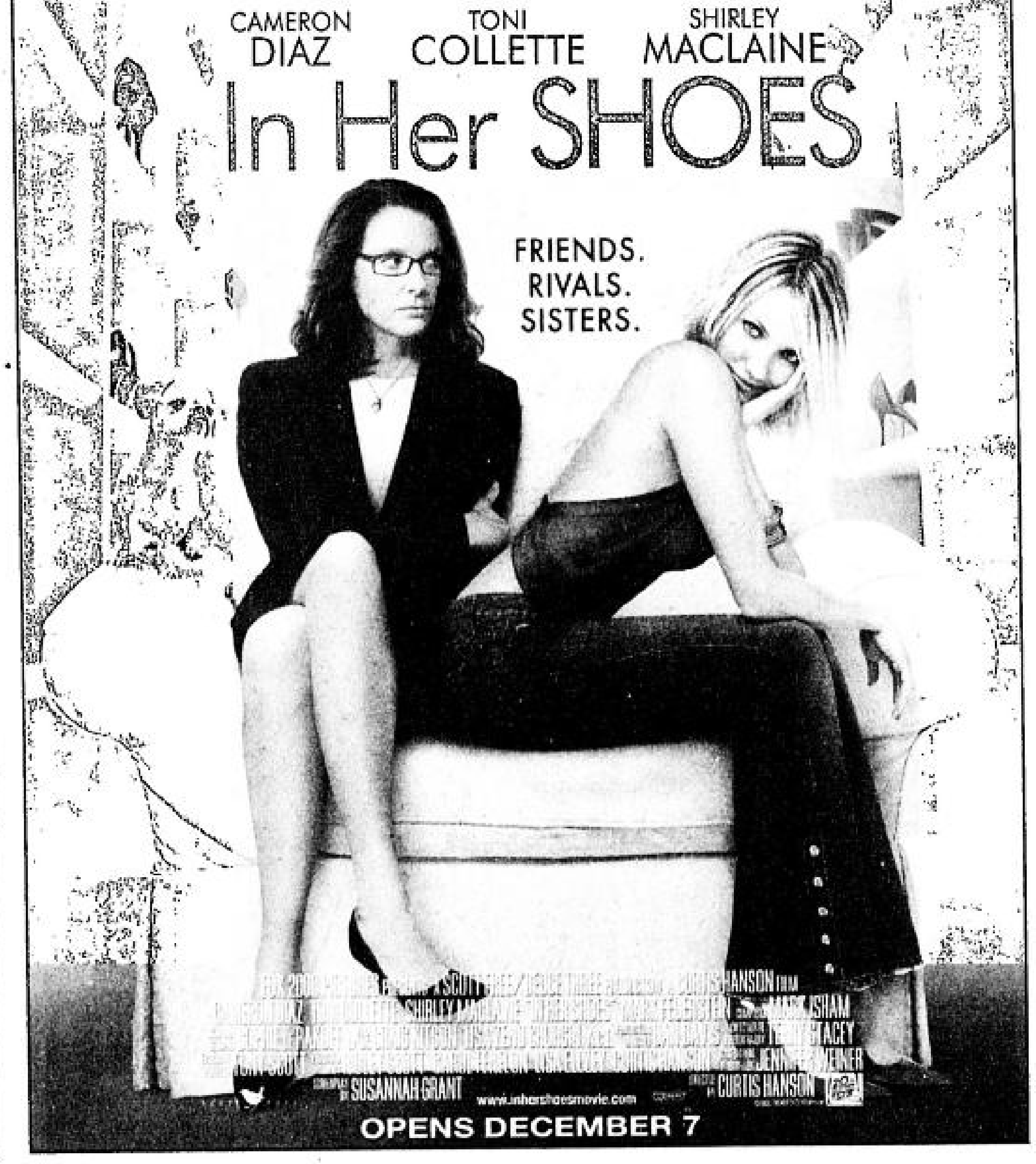
METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 THE MYTH
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARI NG SABLAY
5 FLIGHTPLAN
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 MERRY CHRISTMAS
8 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
9 OYAYI MUSICAL PLAY
10 PRIME
11 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12 THE MAN
SM CITY STA. MESA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 PRIME
7 THE MYTH
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 LEGEND OF ZORRO
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MAN
3 APRIL SNOW
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
2 MERRY CHRISTMAS
3 PRIME
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
10 THE MAN
11 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
12 RESERVED
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 FLIGHTPLAN
8 THE MAN
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 PRIME
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MAN
SM CITY MANILA
1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE MYTH
7 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
8 PRIME
9 HARI NG SABLAY
10 MERRY CHRISTMAS
11 FLIGHTPLAN
12 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
SM CINEMA SAN LAZARO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MAN
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
6 HARI NG SABLAY

WORLD-CLASS, PROUDLY PINOY!
Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros
"Kuwento ito ng batang bading pero hindi ito tungkol sa kabaklaan. It's about first love but more importantly it's about love for family. I LOVE THIS FILM!" Olivia M. Lamasan (Director, MILAN)
"May puso, WORLD-CLASS PINOY FILM." Maryo J. Delos Reyes (Director, MAGNIFICO)
BEST PICTURE Montreal World Film Festival 2005 First Films Competition
Jury Prize for BEST PICTURE and BEST ACTOR BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN Cinemalaya 2005
Nominee BEST PICTURE BEST DIRECTOR and BEST ACTOR Asian Festival of First Films
BEST PICTURE imagineNATIVE Film Festival Toronto
NOW SHOWING

LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 CRY WOLF
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE MYTH
5 HARI NG SABLAY
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM LIPA NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 THE MYTH
4 HARI NG SABLAY
SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MAN
2 THE MYTH
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
SM CITY MARILAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH
SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
SM CITY LUCENA
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
3 MY SASSY GIRL
4 HARI NG SABLAY
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 FOUR BROTHERS

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 APRIL SNOW
6 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
7 HARI NG SABLAY
8 THE MYTH
SM CITY ILOILO
1 HARI NG SABLAY
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 FOUR BROTHERS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 MY SASSY GIRL
SM CITY DAVAO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 APRIL SNOW
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 WAITING
SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 PRIME (R13) 11:20, 2:05 EXORCISM (PG13) 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 2 HARRY POTTER & The GOBLET OF FIRE GP - 11:00, 2:20, 5:40, 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinotertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CHICKEN LITTLE GP 11:45, 1:40, 3:35, 5:30, 7:25, 9:20
CINEMA 4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN - PG13 11:30, 1:40, 3:50 6:00, 8:10, 10:20
CINEMA 5 CHICKEN LITTLE GP - 10:45, 12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 6:25, 8:20, 10:15
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
December 2 & 3 TIM PAYAG & AL MANALO - Stand Up Comedy 8:30PM
December 10, 2005 CUESHE 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "L.A. CONFIDENTIAL" AND THE WRITER OF "ERIN BROCKOVICH"
CAMERON DIAZ TONI COLLETTE SHIRLEY MACLAINE
In Her SHOES
FRIENDS. RIVALS. SISTERS.
SUSANNAH GRANT CURTIS HANSON www.inhershoesmovie.com
OPENS DECEMBER 7

Araneta Center Leisure Guide
GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10
MOVIE-GOING LIKE NO OTHER
ONLY CINEPLEX IN THE COUNTRY FULL STADIUM
SEATING COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS
ALL THEATERS WITH DOLBY DIGITAL EX ULTRA SOUND
WALL TO WALL SCREEN LARGEST CURVED SCREEN
70 FEET WIDE, 30 FEET HIGH ENJOY TRULY WORLD-CLASS
STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE EXPERIENCE AT POPULAR PRICES!
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX 10 LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
P140 HARRY POTTER
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 12:40 / 3:40 / 6:40 / 9:40
JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
MERRY CHRISTMAS 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
HARI NG SABLAY 12:35 / 3:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA CHICKEN LITTLE 1:10 / 6:10 HARRY POTTER 3:00 / 9:00
CHICKEN LITTLE 11:30 / 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 8:55
THE MYTH 1:15 / 4:00 / 6:45 / 9:30
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:10 / 3:50 / 6:30 / 9:20
PRIME 1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
ALI MALL CINEMAS
① HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 R4 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
② HARI NG SABLAY 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10
③ CHICKEN LITTLE 12:20 / 2:35 / 4:50 / 7:30
④ ...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:05 R3/ 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
⑤ THE MYTH 12:20 / 3:05 / 5:50 / 8:35
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
ATENEO - LA SALLE DREAM GAMES '05 Dec 8 Thu LEGENDS GAME 4:30 pm DREAM GAME 7pm
URCC - THE ART OF WAR December 10, Saturday 8:00 pm
CENTER EVENTS
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Get 20% off on all items from Monday to Thursday at Le Coeur de France and Bread Works at the Upper Ground Floor of Ali Mall
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LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

FEEDBACK

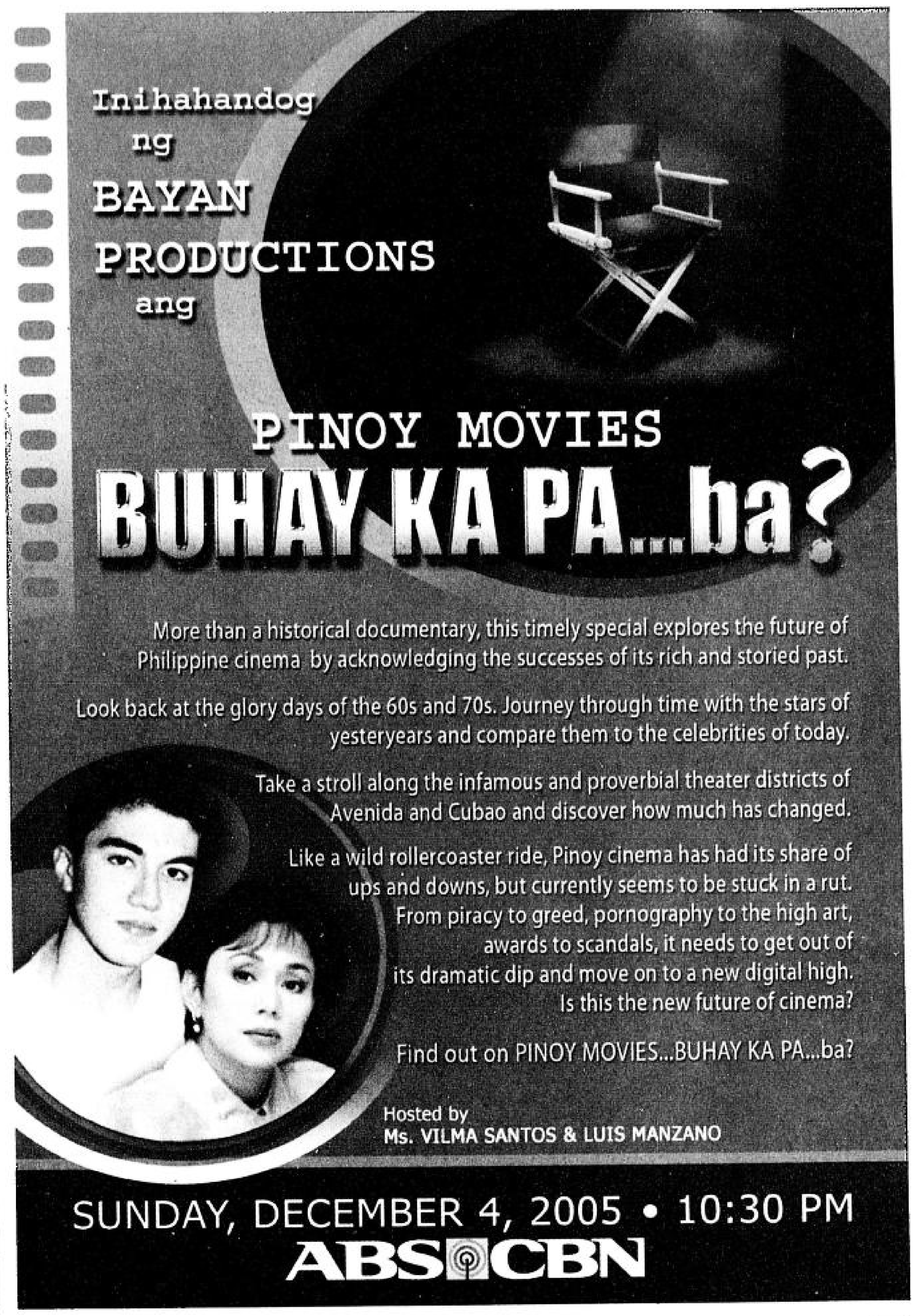
FROM Elma Abesamis, Diamond Bar, CA (via e-mail):

I recently joined a jazz cruise aboard Holland America Oosterdam, whose crew members are mostly Filipinos and Indonesians. Some of the performers were asked about their big breaks. Jazz pianist David Benoit said his was "performing in Manila, Philippines." He said his first taste of celebrity stardom was flying first class from LA to Manila. And he couldn't believe 3,000 people came to see him play. What a nice guy! Thought I'd share this with you.

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▷ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED

WHO YOU CALLIN' CHICKEN?
Walt Disney Pictures Presents
chicken little

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures



More than a historical documentary, this timely special explores the future of Philippine cinema by acknowledging the successes of its rich and storied past.

Look back at the glory days of the 60s and 70s. Journey through time with the stars of yesteryears and compare them to the celebrities of today.

Take a stroll along the infamous and proverbial theater districts of Avenida and Cubao and discover how much has changed.

Like a wild rollercoaster ride, Pinoy cinema has had its share of ups and downs, but currently seems to be stuck in a rut. From piracy to greed, pornography to the high art, awards to scandals, it needs to get out of its dramatic dip and move on to a new digital high. Is this the new future of cinema?

Find out on PINOY MOVIES...BUHAY KA PA...ba?

Hosted by
Ms. VILMA SANTOS & LUIS MANZANO

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2005 • 10:30 PM
ABS-CBN

Enchanted Kingdom's
Spettacolo Pirotecnico
Christmas Edition

"Best fireworks show ever staged in the country"
Freddie Santos
Noted Theater/Concert Director

"Enchanted Kingdom's idea of a nightcap, and it really does live up to the buzz"
Chonx Tibajia
Assistant Editor for Special Sections, Philippine Star

"...raises the bar of past fireworks shows"
Ayvi Nicolas
Editor for Kids Only, Philippine Star

"The extravaganza has been compared to the dance of fountains at Las Vegas Bellagio Hotel!"
Kathryn Reyes
Writer, Philippine Daily Inquirer

Don't just take their word for it! Come and witness Enchanted Kingdom's Spettacolo Pirotecnico, an award-winning fireworks and laser light spectacle of world-class proportions made even better this Christmas with extended orchestration to "Carol Of The Bells."

Spettacolo Pirotecnico will light up the Christmas sky only on Dec. 10, 17, 25 and Jan. 1, 2006 at 9:00 pm.

Park Schedules:

Dec. 7 - Dec. 9
10am to 7pm
Dec. 10 - Dec. 16
10am to 10pm

Dec. 17 - Jan. 1, 2006
10am to 12 midnight
Dec. 24 & Dec. 31
10am to 7pm

Jan. 2 - Jan. 8, 2006
Mon to Fri, 10am to 7pm
Sat & Sun, 10am to 10pm

Daily fireworks display from Dec. 10 to Jan. 1, 2006.

NATIONAL PRODUCT QUALITY EXCELLENCE Awards
Best Fireworks Display
& Best Theme Park
National Category 2005

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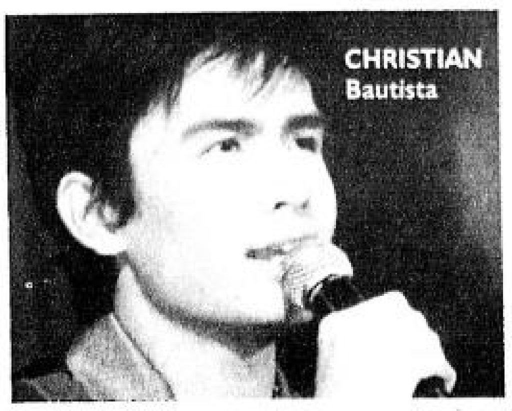
The magic stays with you.

Makati Sales Office: Ground Floor, The Biltmore Condominium, 102 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City. Telephone Nos. 830-21-11 to 16 and 843-60-73 to 78. Website: www.enchantedkingdom.com.ph


CHRISTIAN
Bautista

Christian's CD out, yearend concert set

SPIN CITY

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA treats fans to a year-end concert, "It's All-About Christian," on Dec. 10 at the Heritage Hotel.

Meanwhile, on Dec. 6, his much-awaited CD, "Completely," under Warner Music Philippines hits the stores.

The new album contains 12 brand-new songs, and will be released simultaneously in Indonesia.

His single, "The Way You Look At Me," is still a top hit in Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia.

"Completely" also carries two original compositions by Christian.

Highlights

The Heritage concert will highlight numbers from Christian's past major shows. Frenchie Dy guests.

Call 9260556 or 9202643.

SHANG CINEPLEX
① CHICKEN LITTLE
MTRCB. GP
② JUST LIKE HEAVEN
MTRCB:GP
③ EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
MTRCB: PG-13
④ HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
MTRCB:GP
PREMIERE THEATRE CHICKEN LITTLE
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
FOR EVERY SINGLE PURCHASE OF 3 TICKETS TO " CHICKEN LITTLE "GET A 20% OFF DISCOUNT COUPON FROM FISH & CO.AND A CHANCE TO WIN FISH & CO.PREMIUM ITEMS.
See Posters for Details DTI NCR Permit No. A3-1003 Series of 2005
Regular Ticket Price
Cinemas 1 to 4 - P150 ,*except on blockbusters
Premiere Theatre - P295 (includes unlimited popcorn and beverage)
Call 633-7851, loc. 171 or 633-2227 / 633-4735 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

Ako si Chona, ang unang pinakasalan ni Elton, kaya AKO LEGAL WIFE!
Ako si Patty, ang nagbigay swerte sa negosyo ni Elton, kaya AKO LUCKY WIFE!
I'm Gloria, ang pinakabata at pinakaseksi. Sabi ni Elton, maganda rin ang hinaharap ko, kaya wala lang, feeling ko AKO LATEST WIFE...okey?
合法妻
Ako Legal Wife
Mano Po 4?!
OPENS DECEMBER 25
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC.
www.regalfilms.com/akolegalwife
AN OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 2005 METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL PHILIPPINES

EDDIE GARCIA
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
BOOTS ANSON-ROA
& DENNIS TRILLO
JENNYLYN MERCADO
MARK HERRAS
PAULEEN LUNA
BLUE MOON
A film by JOEL LAMANGAN
Also starring
POLO RAVALES
REGGIE CURLEY
TIN TIN BERSOLA BABAO
PAOLO PARAISO
VANGIE LABALAN
TIN ARNALDO
PINKY AMADOR
JANA VICTORIA
JANUARY ISAAC
RJ ROSALES
ALAN PAULE
JIM PEBANCO
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POSO
GLORIA ROMERO
YASMIEN KURDI
RAINIER CASTILLO
MARCO ALCARAZ
BIBOY RAMIREZ
JENINE DESIDERIO
and MS. AI AI DELAS ALAS
AQUARIUM
OGIE ALCASID
WILMA DOESNT
REGGIE CURLEY
PAUL SALAS
and ARA MINA
LIHIM
TANYA GARCIA
ELIZABETH OROPESA
NONI BUENCAMINO
RONNIE LAZARO
and MARK ANTHONY FERNANDEZ
SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL
2k5
directed by URO DELA CRUZ RICO MARIA ILARDE RICHARD SOMES
AN OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 2005 METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL PHILIPPINES
OPENS DECEMBER 25
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC.
reality entertainment, inc.

IN THEATERS WORLDWIDE DECEMBER 14!
FROM ACADEMY AWARD® WINNING Director PETER JACKSON
KING KONG
NAOMI WATTS
JACK BLACK
ADRIEN BRODY
UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS A WINGNUT FILMS PRODUCTION
"KING KONG" THOMAS KRETSCHMANN COLIN HANKS JAMIE BELL AND ANDY SERKIS AS KONG
JAMES NEWTON HOWARD
JOE LETTERI
RICHARD TAYLOR
JAMIE SELKIRK ACE
GRANT MAJOR
ANDREW LESNIE ACS, ASC
PHILIPPA BOYENS
JAN BLENKIN
CAROLYNNE CUNNINGHAM
united international pictures
Solar Entertainment Corporation
UNIVERSAL

Inspiring features on TV

FOR YEARS NOW, WHENEVER TV PEOPLE ASK us for suggestions on what new shows they should produce for viewers, among our list of preferred formats has been a program about "everyday" heroes.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

We like this concept because it subliminally suggests to viewers that they too can lead heroic lives, as men and women for others. We feel this would go a long way in counteracting the egoism and egotism that characterize people's ethical framework today.

That's why we were excited when we heard that QTV 11 was producing "Pusong Wagi," a show that honored 'everyday' heroes, and that its host was **Tessie Tomas**.

Tessie is a good choice to topbill the inspirational program, because she isn't just an entertainer, she also supports a number of worthy causes. So, her credibility along these lines is high.

The show itself is similarly credible in the way that it showcases "ordinary" people's heroic deeds, without any distracting puffery and fanfare.

Neighbors who save other people's children from a fire, strangers who rescue drowning kids, honest workers who return huge amounts of money they've found—these are the "accessible" heroes of our times, and "Pusong Wagi" honors them in a sincere and dignified way that is a welcome respite from local TV's usual giddy, ga-ga presentational style.

We trust that viewers will reward the inspiring show with their patronage. And that viewers will take their cue from the "ordinary" heroes featured in the program, and similarly perform extraordinary deed for others.

Instant action

ANOTHER inspirational TV feature is the "Citizens' Patrol" segment on Channel 2's "TV Patrol" newscast. The regular portion invites citizens to get over their reticence and apathy, and focus on a problem in their neighborhood that hasn't been addressed and thus has inconvenienced residents for a long time.

The problem can be as "small" as bad drainage, an illegal jeepney terminal, or dangerously exposed electrical wiring, but its solution is a major boon to the people who have had to put up with it for weeks, months, or even years.

The video features on them may be awkwardly produced, the complainants may be nervous on camera, but the results are admirable, because the televised complaint often elicits instant action from local government officials who have effectively been put on the spot by the concerned citizen's televised complaint.

Best of all, "Citizens' Patrol" teaches viewers that they, too, can and should use the media to make sure that their legitimate complaints are heard, and quickly acted upon.

More such inspirational and motivational features on TV, please.

'The Amazing Race' finale

A FEW months ago, 11 families of four embarked on a race around the world on the eighth season of AXN's "The Amazing Race." Now, 11 pit stops later, the end is near. The season finale of "The Amazing Race: Family Edition" will be telecast on AXN at 8 p.m. on Dec. 7.

'Noontime Show'

THE ITCHYWORMS' new album, "Noontime Show," focuses on satirical digs at TV fare. It features cuts that are more meaningful than the usual novelty songs and pop-rock numbers.

Songs include "Patnubay sa Magulang," "Falling Star," "Salapi," "Love Team," "Soap O Pera" and the carrier single, "Akin Ka Na Lang."

'Greatest Hits' meet The Stylistics

THE STYLISTICS and the stars of the "Greatest Hits" concert series (**Marco Sison, Rey Valera, Rico Puno** and **Hajji Alejandro**) will perform back-to-back in "The Greatest Hits Live" at the PICC at 8 p.m. on Dec. 29.

The "Greatest Hits" singers are solo stars in their own right, but their performances together, both here and abroad, have been exceedingly successful.

For their part, The Stylistics have been consistent hit-makers since 1968 in the soul/R&B genre. Their hits include "Betcha By Golly Wow," "Stop, Look, Listen," "Break Up to Make Up," "You'll Never Get to Heaven" and "You Make Me Feel Brand New."

Call 5516296, 8919999 or 9115555.

The 'Maxi' blog

From page A2-6

iar with the concept. His friends went dressed as white ladies; Maxi as Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman! "I don't have to tell you who won Best in Costume and Miss Halloween 2005," Maxi writes.

When he won P500 in an ending game, he bought a fan magazine (with Sandara, of course) and a tall can of Lysol because "*gusto kong mag*-general cleaning."

The "good girl" also relates how he lost his slippers running away from his father for fear of being caught flirting with the boys. In the same space, he expresses profound joy when his dad buys him girly slippers embellished with yellow flowers.

He quips: "*Feyborit ko talaga ang* flowers ... *na* pink *at* red!"

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

1 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
12:45, 4:10, 7:35, 11:00
GP
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:10, 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00
GP
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20 8:40, 11:00
GP
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
11:55, 2:45, 5:35, 8:25, 11:00
PG-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City
☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

THE MYTH
PG13 - 1:45,4:15
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
PG13
6:45,9:20

CHICKEN LITTLE
GP
11:00,1:00,3:00, 5:00,7;00,9:00

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
GP
12:30,3:40,6:50,10:00

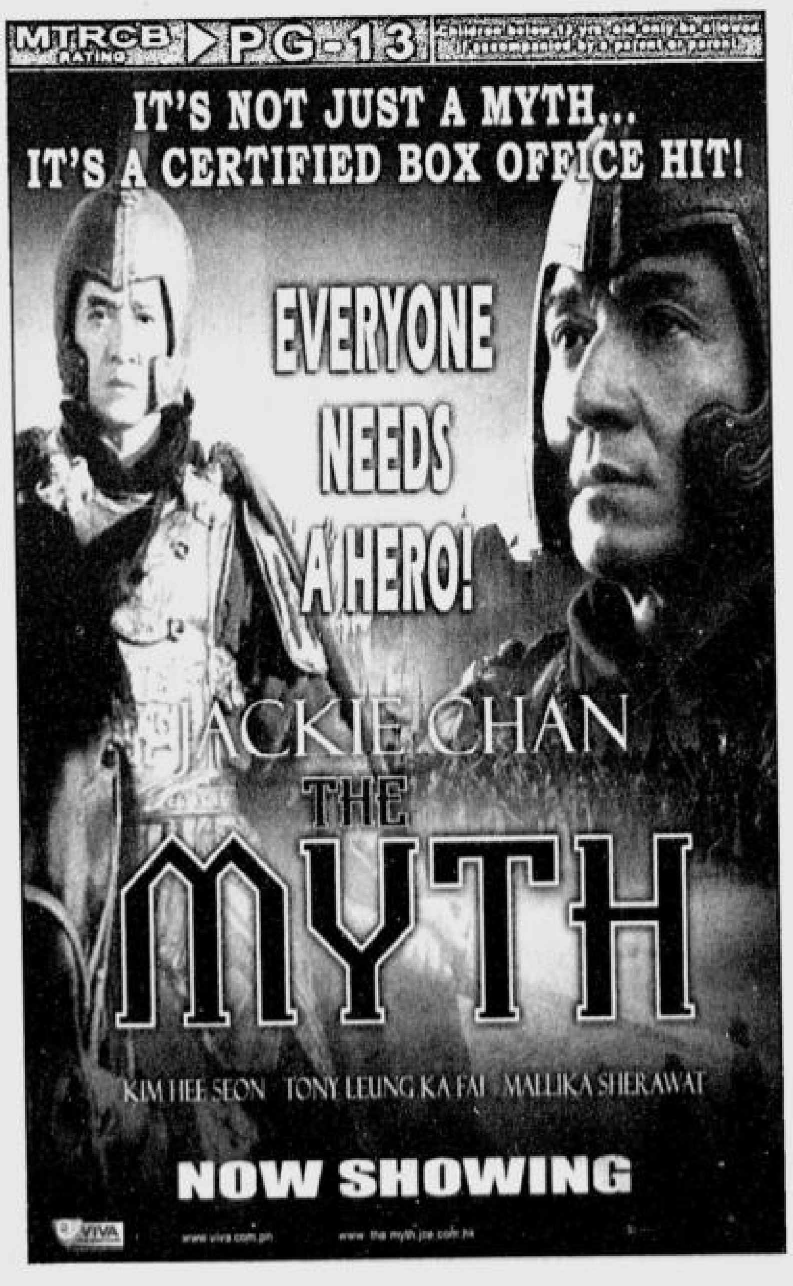
CHICKEN LITTLE
GP
11:50,1:50,3:50
PRIME
R13
5:30,7:45,10:00

PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
PG13
12:50,3:00,5:10,7:20,9:30

JUST LIKE HEAVEN
GP
1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15

SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898 1440-41.

2nd WEEK
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP.
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF
"MONSTER-IN-LAW"
uma thurman
meryl streep bryan greenberg
PRIME
A therapeutic romantic comedy.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13


The National Commission for Culture and the Arts
Cinema Values Reorientation Program
Mowelfund Film Institute
and
The City Government of Cagayan de Oro City

Present

PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2005
RODELSA HALL,
Liceo de Cagayan University,
Cagayan de Oro City
December 6 & 7, 2005

Magnifico
Values-Oriented Films

Cagayan de Oro Cultural Action Program
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Solon seeks medals for 3 champs

By Nini Valera

A SOLON IS SEEKING CONGRESSIONAL Medals of Honor for singers Jed Madela, Rizza Navales and Ladine Roxas, who won top awards in international singing competitions.

Parañaque Rep. Edgardo Zialcita (1st district) has filed a resolution to rectify the "snub" of the three, who came home to little fanfare after their victories.

Jed, a contract artist of ABS-CBN and a recording artist of Universal Records, told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday that a Congressional Medal of Honor would be "a big thing."

RP sweep

Jed and Rizza won most of the top awards at the recent World Champions of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Hollywood, California.

WCOPA is an 11-year-old competition in the performing arts also dubbed as "talent Olympics." This year, 51 countries participated. It was the first time that the country sent representatives to the competition.

Grand prize plus

Jed romped away with the Grand Champion Performer of the World Award, the ultimate title, plus six gold medals in all the categories that he competed in. He was also named Champion of the World Male Vocalist.

He shared a gold medal with Rizza for the Champion of the World title in the duet category.

Rizza won five gold medals and a silver medal in the six categories she joined. She was also named Champion of the World Female Vocalist.

Last September, Rizza and Jed were given an audience by President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang to present their medals and trophies

But unlike boxer Manny Pacquiao and Miss International 2005 Precious Lara Quigaman, no one raised Jed's and Rizza's hand and proclaimed them champs even for just photo opportunities.

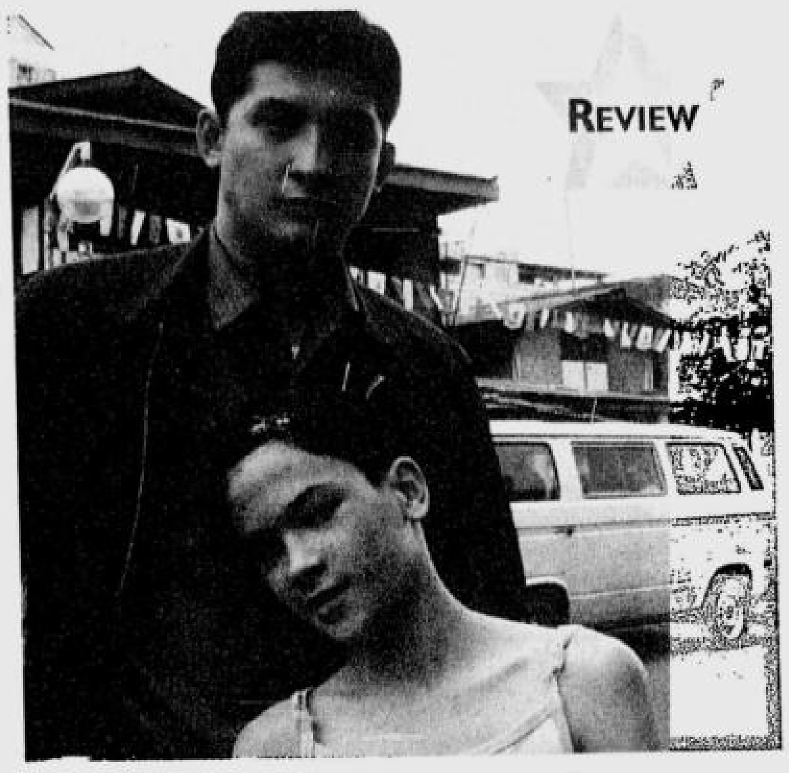
In Zialcita's resolution, the solon noted that Ladine Roxas, who won the Grand Prize in the Voice of Asia competition held in Kazakhstan in 2001 "has not yet been given the accolade she deserves."

Foreign artist?

After her win, Ladine signed up with the UK record label Candid, and proceeded to London to pursue an international career.

But in 2003, she was included by the Bureau of Immigration in a list of "foreign artists" who entered the Philippines as tourists and then stayed to work without a permit.

Ladine, a Philippine passport holder, received a public apology from Immigration chief Andrea Domingo.



REVIEW

JR VALENTIN and Nathan Lopez in "Pagdadalaga"

A blossoming in poetic chaos

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GAY BOY Maxi (Nathan Lopez) is a metaphor, much like the eye-catching flower he singles out and picks up from the trash in the beginning of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros." Amidst the crime and squalor pervading his cramped neighborhood, he embodies potential and innocence, and an unspoken desire to beautify the lives of those he touches. That's one of the subtle messages of this memorably touching film, which, if you don't already know, continues to receive accolades from film critics here and abroad.

Maxi's story, written by Michiko Yamamoto (who also wrote "Magnifico") and directed by Auraeus Solito, unflinchingly catches reflections of real gender identity issues, street-level crimes, and the elusiveness of young romance. One can feel the grime and invasiveness of the congested cityscape where the tale takes place, too, which provides an ideal backdrop that captures the grit and inviting simplicity of its plot.

It doesn't take long to reel us in, as we're introduced to interesting misfits among misfits, and potentially heart-rending dilemmas—the endearing Maxi, sashaying "baby" in a family of brusque and shady men, develops an intense crush on a knight in cop uniform, Victor (JR Valentin). Victor, himself a misfit in this environment, befriends the enamored Maxi, while remaining suspicious of the boy's father (Soliman Cruz) and two brothers (Ping Medina and Neil Ryan Sese).

No stereotypes

"Pagdadalaga" doesn't portray the family of macho bullies as stereotypical gay-bashing scum. Not at all; surprisingly, they beat up and threaten those who harass Maxi! They accept him unconditionally, while the kid has adapted to the role of their deceased mother by taking on all the household chores. The relationships between the boy and the people in his life are sensitively dissected.

The movie is almost perfect, but for a technical slip. Some speaking lines are drowned out by loud ambient sounds at the beginning. Hopefully, they'll fix that before the DVD release. The laudable ensemble cast breathes life into their roles and the smart dialogue, meshing together into a nice, multi-faceted mosaic. Each has his strengths and contributions to the whole. And as a whole, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" is a rare, fine film about the difficulties and triumphs of growing up, no matter what one's financial situation or sexual orientation may be. Support this enlightening film, folks. It is truly deserving.

The 'Maxi' blog

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FOR LACK OF A HUGE ADVERtising budget, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" found an alternative, if hilarious, promotional tool in the Internet.

Apart from the official web site (http://maximooliveros.tripod.com), ufo Pictures also built a blog site for Maximo, the movie's fictional preteen gay from "Sampaloc, Philippines" (http://maximooliveros.blogspot.com).

Entitled "*Ang Simula ng Pagdadalaga Ko*," Maximo's blog further acquaints netizens with the creation of scriptwriter Michiko Yamamoto, producer Raymond Lee and director Auraeus Solito.

Turns out, Maxi is Aquarian. He lists his interests, not necessarily in this order, as: boys, flowers, cooking, Sandara and Claudine movies, "*magsulsi ng damit, mag*-shopping *at mamalengke* [darning clothes, shopping and going to the wet market]."

He names Makisig Morales, the pint-sized contestant on "Little Big Star," as his all-time crush and says he doesn't care for hunky Sam Milby.

Meeting Makisig in person at the ABS-CBN studios, he recounts, he took the kid's picture with a stolen cell phone that he borrowed from his father.

On Halloween, Maxi and his all-gay posse (the SBBS or Samahan ng mga Batang Bading sa Sampaloc) went trick-or-treating, even though his barangay-mates were unfamil

THE MAXI/ A2-5

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BONO of U2

Paul, Bono and Eagles take me back to Manila; Peter Jackson's 'King Kong' is spectacular

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

NEW YORK—LAST WEDnesday night (Nov. 30), we attended the first screening of **Peter Jackson**'s remake of "King Kong." It was the most fun we've had in a movie house this year. In fact, some scenes in this "Kong" are among the most entertaining that we've seen in years.

A scene involving rampaging dinosaurs is, by itself, worth the price of several movie tickets. Aided by the CGI and special effects crew he had in "Lord…," Peter created a number of spectacular set pieces. If you're craving entertainment, not serious, award-contender fare, "Kong" is it among the big holiday releases from Hollywood.

Peter told me that he and his staff finished the three-hour film a scant few minutes before he boarded the plane in his homeland New Zealand for the New York screening.

We've also seen **Terrence Malick**'s much-awaited "The New World." Disney's "Pocahontas" this is not—it is a revisionist narration of the long-tressed Indian lass' myth. Film lovers will savor and appreciate that Malick has gifted us with another film. It's two-and-a-half hours of quiet power and beauty—a meditation on the origins of the US and of romance.

We've watched the much-anticipated film version of the musical "The Producers," too. **Nathan Lane** and **Matthew Broderick** reprise their stage roles but **Uma Thurman** as Ulla and **Will Ferrell** as Franz Liebkind are the delights. Uma as the Swedish vamp sings and dances charmingly. But it is Will, as a neo-Nazi composer, who brings in howls of laughter with his number with Nathan and Matthew, "Der Guten Tag Hop-Clop." This man is c-r-a-z-y!

Back in Calasiao

Their venue may have been the Staples Center in downtown LA but recent concerts by **Paul McCartney**, U2, Eagles and **Neil Diamond** trans-

PAUL, BONO/ A3-2

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Paul, Bono and Eagles take me back to Manila . . .

From page A3-1

ported me to different times of my life in the Philippines.

At Paul McCartney's concert last Tuesday evening, the calendar may have said that it was Nov. 29, but upon hearing him sing "I'll Follow the Sun" and "Till There Was You," I was a grade school kid again in Calasiao, Pangasinan—a boy in shorts, staring at the newly-waxed and scrubbed red floor of our bungalow while under the spell of my older siblings' Beatles vinyl LP spinning on our brand new stereo.

At the time, I had only the faintest idea of what it was to be grown up but Paul McCartney's lyrics suggested to me the conflicting yet thrilling emotions of adulthood: "And now the time has come/And so my love I must go./And though I lose a friend,/In the end you will know, oooh." Okay, not the most profound of lyrics but to an impressionable kid, they romanticized a world and all its mystery, sweetness and pain. I wanted to be part of it.

And so to me, the best part of Paul's set were not the big, splashy numbers like the "Live and Let Die" which ended with fireworks, but when it was just him and his guitar, playing the soundtrack of my boyhood.

Next year turning to the age he mentions in his song "When I'm 64," Paul has remained refreshingly gangly and boyish. No macho rock star posturing from this lanky artist. This lefty's onstage mannerisms are endearingly not slick.

The sold-out crowd of 17,000 applauded their hardworking entertainer. Paul could have taken it easy and done a lazy set and the crowd of baby boomers would have still loved him. But while his three ace musicians had breaks, Paul was onstage most of the time, appearing to enjoy it all—imagine, 30-plus songs—while playing a variety of instruments—piano, bass, acoustic and electric guitars. He kept a stage hand busy handing him various guitars.

In "Let it Be," the lights at the Staples Center were dimmed while a single candle flickered on Paul's piano. My wife **Janet** was moved. "Hey Jude" was greeted with a standing ovation, with the audience singing along in the "na na na na..." part.

At one point, Paul said, "I'm just going to take a moment to drink this all in." He proceeded to pause at several sides of the stage, just staring at the crowd. In this hectic, stress-filled world, we should all do the same—pause for a few seconds to appreciate what we have.

PAUL McCartney

Easy feelings

After all these years, the Eagles still sound good. Their songs, like "Desperado" and "Peaceful Easy Feeling," brought me back to nightly beer haunts in Metro Manila. Oh, for those days when it was possible to go out for beer almost every night after work!

Don Henley, Glenn Frey, Joe Walsh and company onstage, dressed simply in plaid shirts and jeans, also reminded me of **Robert "Obet" Gultiano**, the messenger where I used to toil in Manila. In the evenings, Obet transformed himself into a guitar-strumming singer in beer gardens. Wonder where he is now. He used to "massacre" the lyrics of the Eagles, **Neil Young**, **James Taylor**, **Simon** and **Garfunkel**, and **Jim Croce** with his diction but what the hick, er, heck, after a few bottles of San Mig, he sounded as good as Don or Glenn.

What's amazing about the Eagles is that they had several performances at the Staples this year and they packed the place each time with cheering, swaying folks.

A Bono high

Since U2 became really popular in the mid-1980s when we had just left Manila, their concert last month reminded us of our struggles to start all over in 'Tate, a period when we missed Manila very much. Bono made fun of his persona when he introduced "Sometimes You Can't Make It on Your Own" by narrating how his father once asked him, "Do you ever take off those f - - - ing glasses?" He sang the number without the shades.

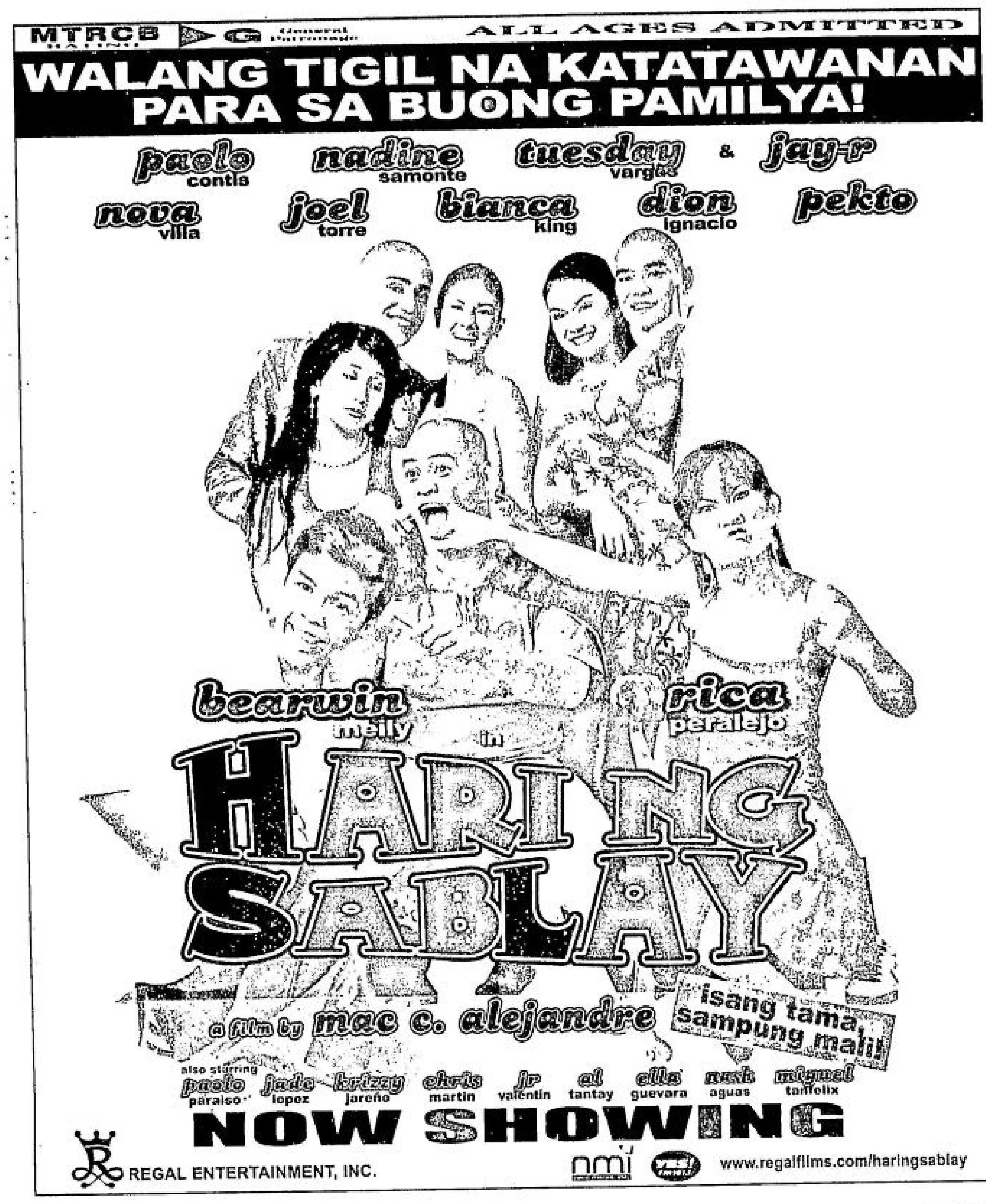
Among the highlights were a video of the Declaration of Human Rights to accompany "Pride," followed by "Where the Streets Have No Name." Then Bono requested the spectators to wave their cell phones, instantly turning Staples into a sea of little glowing screens. The gesture underscored the band's drive to help impoverished Africans by asking people to dial and sign up for The One Campaign.

Act to beat

Among the acts we've seen at the Staples, no one can beat **Peter Gabriel** as far as stagecraft is concerned. To this day, Peter's amazing sets, which involved hydraulics and harnesses, are hard to top.

Peter's stages may be elaborate but the memory that makes me smile and chuckle and long for a night in Manila is of Obet singing "frit trin, frit trin, guing su past." Dear readers, when translated, those lyrics are from a folk song: "Freight train, freight train, going so fast..."

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.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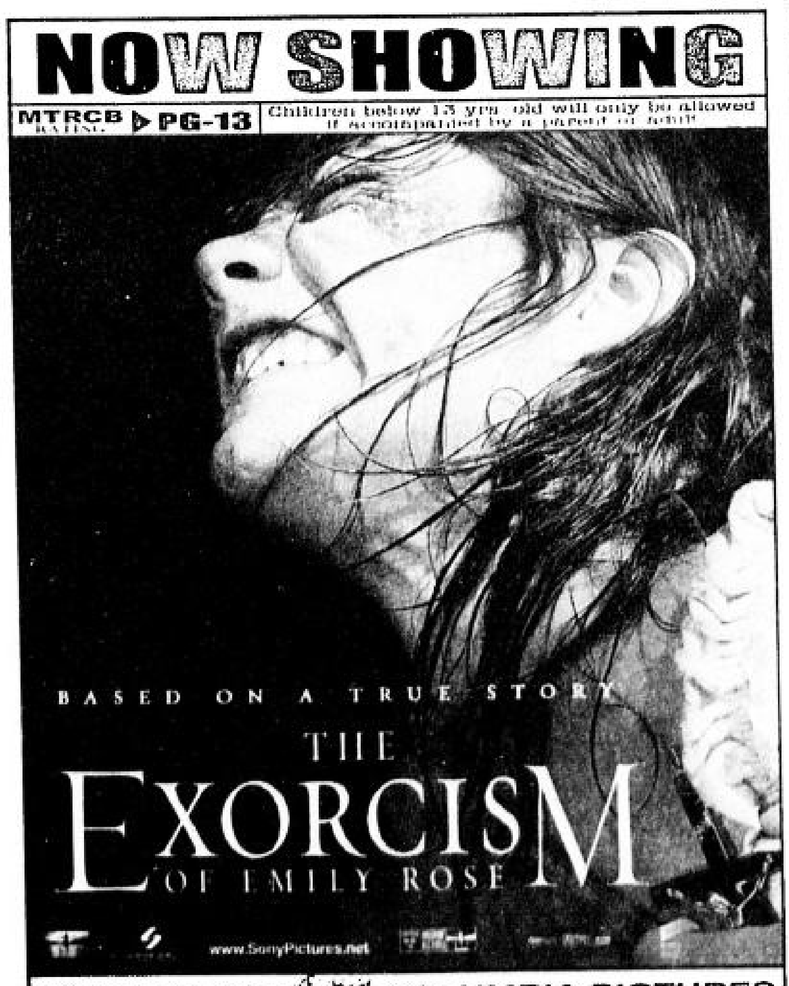
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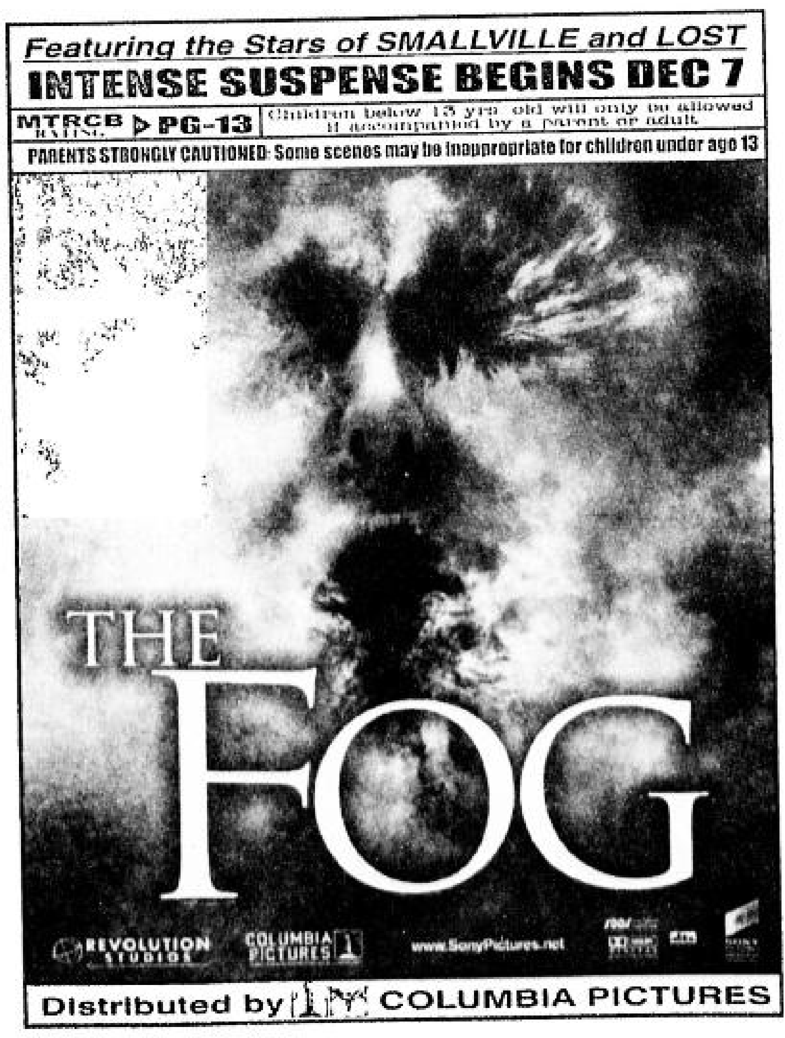
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4 THE MYTH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

7 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST
682-6193 • 682-6199

1 PRIME
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:10 3:20 6:30 9:40

3 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
11:50 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

5 THE MYTH
1:10 3:50 6:30 9:10

6 APRIL SNOW
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

8 HARI NG SABLAY
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

NOVALICHES
935-3231 / 935-3228-30

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE MYTH
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARI NG SABLAY
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE

CITISQUARE MALABON
288-257[illegible]

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER
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2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE

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5 CRY_WOLF
6 THE MYTH

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2 CRY_WOLF
3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
4 THE MYTH
5 FOUR BROTHERS
6 DOMINO

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-483, Series of 2005

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	3 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 PRIME	5 THE MYTH	6 CHICKEN LITTLE	7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE 11:30, 2:40, 5:50, 9:00	2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX CHICKEN LITTLE 1 05, 2 55, 4 45, 6 35, 8 25, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12 45, 2 50, 4 55, 7 00, 9 05, 11 10 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 DEEP BLUE 2 50, 4 45, 6 40, 8 35, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1 30, 4 00, 6 30, 9 00, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HARRY POTTER 4 1 30, 4 40, 7 50, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JUST LIKE HEAVEN	2 CHICKEN LITTLE		
	3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE	5 CHICKEN LITTLE	
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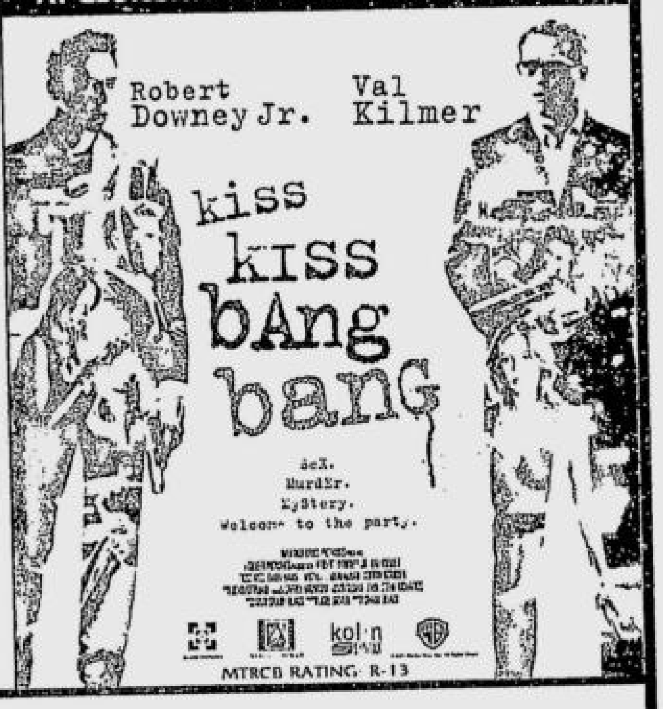

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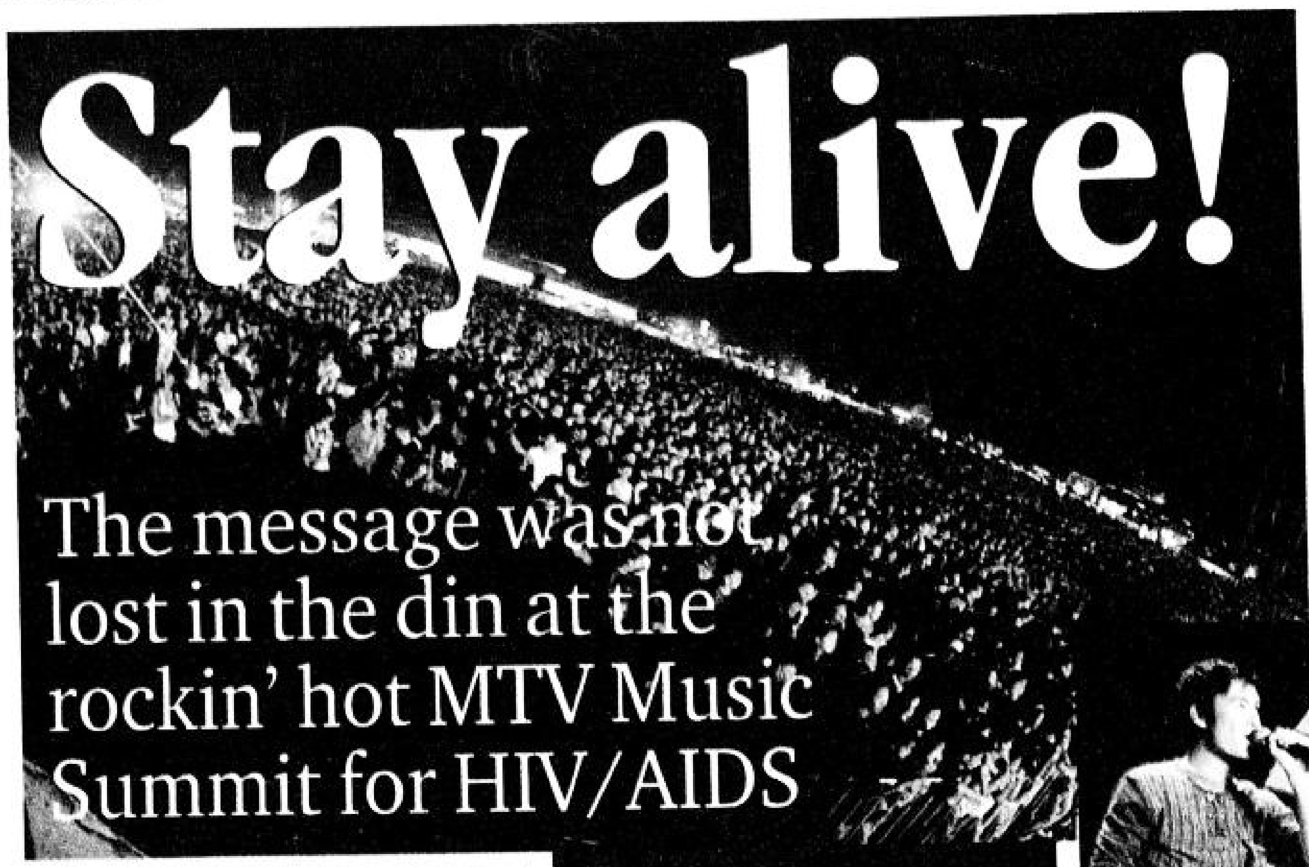
Market! Market! Simbang Gabi
at the 5th level lobby
Dec. 15 - 23, 6:30 pm



Stay alive!

The message was not lost in the din at the rockin' hot MTV Music Summit for HIV/AIDS

BAMBOO delivered the hottest performance of the night with "Hallelujah."

- Be faithful to one
- Know the enemy
- Avoid drugs
- Use condoms

CHRISTIAN Bautista

VIVA Hot Babes

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

BROWNMAN REVIVAL'S COVER OF AN early Eraserheads original kicked off the MTV Music Summit for HIV/AIDS, Thursday at the Fort Open Field in Taguig, with lyrics much appropriate for the event: "*Marami ang namamatay sa maling akala…*"

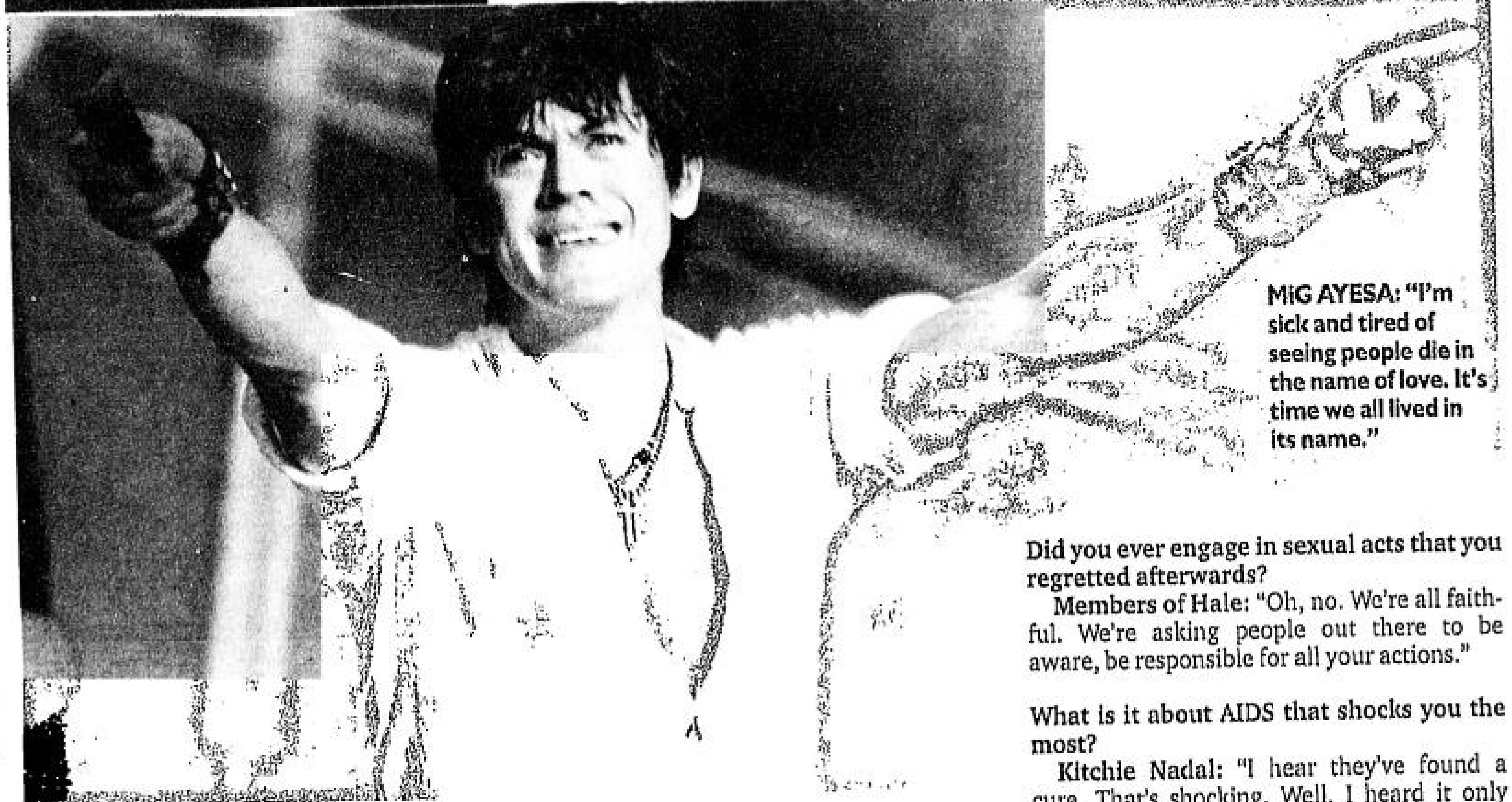
If "staying alive" was the battle cry that would sustain the fight against the most dreadful disease to stalk humanity since cancer, this gig made sure the message was not lost in the din. Interspersed with the music provided by more than 30 local rock bands and pop singers were reminders on the ABCs of containing AIDS:

Be faithful to one. Use condoms. Avoid drugs (or don't share needles). Educate yourself on the disease.

Asked to comment on issues surrounding HIV and AIDS, some of the musicians were either downright conservative or surprisingly flippant in their answers:

What advice would you give to your fans about AIDS?

Christian Bautista: "The best way to avoid getting AIDS is to have sex only after marriage."



MiG AYESA: "I'm sick and tired of seeing people die in the name of love. It's time we all lived in its name."

Did you ever engage in sexual acts that you regretted afterwards?

Members of Hale: "Oh, no. We're all faithful. We're asking people out there to be aware, be responsible for all your actions."

What is it about AIDS that shocks you the most?

Kitchie Nadal: "I hear they've found a cure. That's shocking. Well, I heard it only through the grapevine, but I really want this disease licked soon. Meantime, I ask people, especially the youth, not to be promiscuous."

Why do you think the universe allowed AIDS to happen?

Members of Bamboo: "Population control … equilibrium. Yeah, equilibrium. To balance things out. Or maybe it's just the way it is …"

Afloat in the sea of frenziedly swinging bodies estimated by organizers at about 85,000 was a placard that said: "Ignorance is killing you."

The biggest reward this third edition of the MTV Music Summit hopes to achieve is for all the attendees to behave when the music stops—because the manner that they appreciated the hottest performance of the night, Bamboo's "Hallelujah," bordered closely on the wild side. Concert security staff had their hands full plucking out punks who got too rowdy for comfort. "*Ganyan talaga sila, maligalig,*" commented one guard.

Such is the power of music—and headliner MiG Ayesa was well aware of it when he took the stage and sang U2's "Pride (In the Name of Love)" accompanied by select members of different bands led by guitarist Francis Reyes of the Dawn.

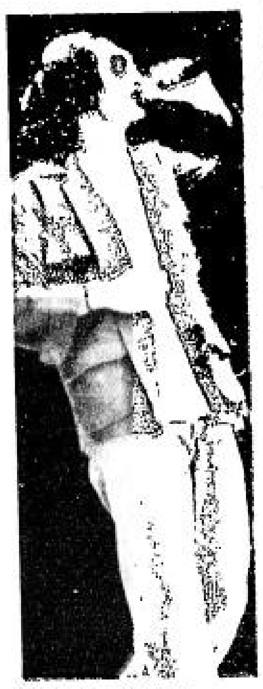
"I'm sick and tired of seeing people die in the name of love, it's time we all lived in its name!" MiG shouted. Then he proceeded to pay tribute to the late AIDS victim Freddie Mercury with "We Will Rock You."

MiG was later seen watching the other acts till the concert winded up at 1:30 a.m. He was apparently amazed at the explosion of talents in local bands, a number of which covered songs also made famous by the Eraserheads.

Could be that these bands were simply recognizing the tunes that inspired them to get serious with music. And if a second golden age in local contemporary music is indeed emerging, a lot of responsibility for the fans falls on these bands.

YASMIEN Kurdi

SARAH Geronimo



BROWNMAN Revival's Dino Concepcion

MARIEL Rodriguez

JEN Rosendahl of Viva Hot Babes

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What a difference an idea can make

CONCRETE blocks help stop further erosion of Talisay River

IBAJAYNONS make rope out of coconut fiber

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

WHAT A DIFFERence ideas can make.

In Laguna, the Laguna Bay Environmental Army Foundation Inc. has thought of making charcoal briquettes for commercial household fuel from waste recovered from the vital Laguna de Bay.

A truck full of biomass—mostly water hyacinth and coconut husk—makes about 40 sacks of charcoal briquettes, which are then sold for P15 a kilo.

The enterprise not only encourages the members to recover more waste from the Laguna de Bay to preserve the environment, it also provides employment to the members who work at the materials recovery facility at the Laguna office of the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

Other members get commis-

WHAT/ B2

SURPRISINGLY VOLVO.

XC70 OOOHH'S & AAHH'S

Driving a great vehicle creates diversified notion and emotion – depending on the driver and vehicle he drives. Below are reviews from illustrious car critiques and writers who took the Volvo XC70 for a test drive. Though compositions and wordings bear differences, you'll find out that their reviews share a common context – they've been pleasantly surprised and impressed after experiencing the Volvo XC70.

"The Cross Country does track speeds off the beaten track – in estate comfort. Take the XC70 onto softer ground, and Volvo's roster of electronic helping hands come into play. Floor it, and the AWD system can direct up to 65 percent of the drive torque to the rear tires. And if that doesn't help, the TRACS anti-spin system steps in to apply any of the 4-wheel disc brakes to the spinning wheels."

KENNETH QUINTAL
PUBLISHER, EDITOR-AT-LARGE
CI MAGAZINE

"The accommodations are first-rate with ample everything for five or even six people. The interior is very driver-oriented with every control within easy reach. The switches are well-damped and solid–worth every penny you'll spend on this car or crossover wagon or whatever you'd like to call it. The controls are easy to use and decipher, albeit a bit of a button fest."

ULYSSES ANG
MOTORING JOURNALIST, MOTIONCARS.COM
MANILA TIMES CONTRIBUTOR

"As this big Swede will haul five big passengers and as much cargo as can fit in the commodious rear cargo area with relative ease thanks to the sheer grunt from its 210 bhp 2.5-liter 5-cylinder 20-valve engine, it's go-anywhere all-wheel-drive system and its high ground clearance. Torque from the Light Pressure Turbo (LPT) engine is a generous 236-lbs-ft available from as low as 1800 rpm. The result of having so much twisting force at such a low engine speed is instant forward squirt from a mere tap on the accelerator. Acceleration is further abetted by the XC70's 5-speed automatic transmission's Geartronic™ system that allows manual up and downshifts."

MANNY DELOS REYES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
SPEED MAGAZINE
CONTRIBUTOR, THE PHILIPPINE STAR

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Photo may vary from actual unit available at dealership.

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Simple recipés of a good restaurant

By Fe Zamora

DEBORAH Lee (left), daughter of Peter Lee (second from right), wife Mary and friend Lam Lai Ming from Hong Kong

IF YOU WANT TO START A restaurant business in these trying times, go ahead. But keep it small, according to restaurant owner Peter Lee.

The goal, according to Lee, is to keep the business going by attracting and maintaining a regular clientele to one outlet, rather than distributing the customers to a chain of restaurants which is costlier to maintain. "If you expand, the capital will be dissipated," he explains.

If you have the capital, Lee says it would be best to go on sole proprietorship. According to him, having many stockholders and investors can mean trouble when the profits start coming.

And last but not the least, Lee, who owns the Peter Lee Hong Kong Tea House on Mabini Street in Ermita, says, "you must like food and you must know how to cook."

And you must also enjoy running a restaurant. In fact, Lee does not only own the restaurant. He is also the host and the resident public relations officer who welcomes the customers and greets regulars who have become his friends.

He would be quick in offering the latest in the menu, even suggesting which dishes would go together.

"You have to be hands-on without being intrusive. You also have to respect your chefs and the waiters," he says.

According to him, running a restaurant and being successful at it requires money, of course; a lot of hard work; tons of patience; excellent public relations and; like any other area in life, a basic and strict adherence to honesty.

And don't forget good luck, he adds.

"Somebody up there must like me," Lee, 78, says.

Lee actually did not start out as a restaurant owner. He had retired from a multinational company when he, along with his siblings, decided to form a corporation that would run a restaurant of authentic Chinese food in the heart of the so-called red-light district in Ermita. It was 1982, and the economy was doing well.

But in 1983, opposition Sen. Benigno Aquino was shot down at the international airport that now bears his name. The assassination stirred the country's politics, floundering the national economy.

In 1989, Lee took over the management of the Hong Kong Tea House along M.H. del Pilar, a Chinese food outlet that had already attracted a following, including policemen, pimps, prostitutes and reporters, or people who work at night.

In his signature suspenders, Lee would be table-hopping, greeting regular customers. To attract good vibes and drive away evil spirits, Lee even posted two golden dragons at the doorway of the restaurant. Even customers were pleased to see the dragons.

Journalists who frequented the place naturally wrote about it. Thus, Lee's restaurant would get free plugs in the columns of Recah Trinidad, Al Mendoza, Ramon Tulfo, among others, and free radio and even TV plugs by Rey Langit.

At its peak, Lee says daily sales at the Hong Kong Tea House soared to P100,000.

But Lee's co-corporators were unhappy. "They thought that I was spoiling the media," he says. He points out that this was another problem with a corporation. "Trouble comes with the profits," he says.

In 1997, Lee set out on his own, opening the Peter Lee Hong Kong Tea House along Mabini Street. A little trouble arose when his siblings sued him for using the name Hong Kong Tea House, but the issue was settled in his favor. The name Peter Lee attached to the original name made his restaurant an entirely new entity, the court would eventually rule.

The successful comeback inspired him to open a branch in Alabang, Bulacan, Sucat and Pasay. He closed them all except the Alabang branch which would be managed by his son. "The rentals were just too high. *Lugi*," he says.

Today, Lee's teahouse is filled to capacity during lunch and dinner times. Its regular clientele include bank employees, government workers and walk-ins, including ubiquitous newsmen that have offices in Ermita and Intramuros.

Honesty, according to Lee, must be observed from the kind of ingredients used in preparing the food to the issuance of chits.

For instance, if you started your restaurant by serving *pansit* with fresh shrimp, then you must have shrimps even if the price of shrimp go sky high. "The customers can tell the difference. They will stop ordering your pancit. Soon, they will stop going to your restaurant," Lee says.

He says it was very important to maintain the standards, and improve on it by adding new menus.

Lee says he gets ideas of new menus from his travels abroad. He also makes it a habit to try out the food in any new restaurant in Metro Manila, and even analyze why some restaurants, despite its excellent cuisine, ended up bankrupt.

Lee said feng shui can help, but only to a certain extent.

"Feng shui is not just to make you prosperous but also to make you a good person. You see, not all the feng shui can offset a bad conscience," he says.

What a difference an idea can make

From page B1

sions from selling briquettes, organic fertilizer and other recycled products.

Preventing erosion

Farther south, in Sta. Cruz, Camarines Norte, the Bantay sa Kalikasan Association, in partnership with the Community-Based Resource Management Planning-Talisay Rivers for Environmental and Economic Sustainability Project, are using a bio-engineering technology to prevent the further erosion of the banks of the Talisay River.

The technology uses concrete interlocking blocks reinforced by plants and geo-textile made from coconut fiber.

Less expensive than concrete, it allows plants to grow alongside the walls, thus helping revive the biodiversity of the river itself and the nearby ecosystems.

The erosion of the Talisay River is a major problem for the communities here as years of denudation and change in the climactic pattern resulted in 990,000 cubic meters of silt encroaching into 20 hectares of agricultural land.

But with the river bank stabilization project holding its own against typhoons, the residents are hopeful that Talisay River and their land will survive.

Ropes from coconut fiber

In Aklan, some 109 families in Ibajay have been earning from ropes made of coconut fiber for four years.

The business was introduced by the Sustainable Rural Enterprise in partnership with the Ibajay Small Coconut Farmers Development Cooperative.

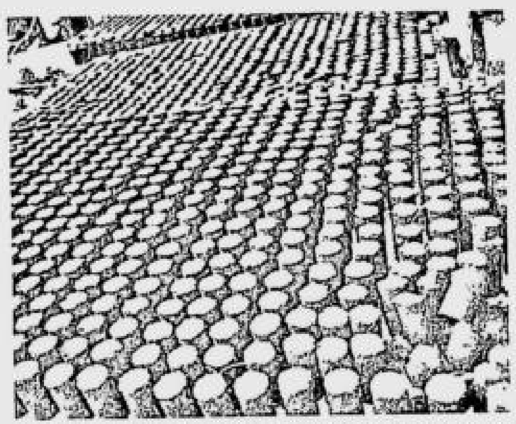
The residents used to just burn the coconut husk, thus polluting the atmosphere.

But when they were taught how to make rope from it, some 300 Ibajaynons have stopped the practice and are now benefiting from the new business.

The ropes are woven into geo-textile nets used to prevent soil erosion and reduce siltation on riverbeds, coconut land, hillsides, mangroves and fishponds.

These are just some of the 59 ongoing winning projects under the Panibagong Paraan project initiated by the World Bank with the Department of Social Welfare and Development as lead partner agency.

Projects such as these were given start-up project grants of up to P1 million and the ideas have certainly borne much fruit in just one year.



ORGANIC waste collected from Laguna Lake is transformed into charcoal briquettes

In Laguna, EA got a grant of P750,000 from the Asian Development Bank, which was used to set up the materials recovery and charcoal briquetting facility.

The facility was set up six months after the grant was given and sale of the briquettes has been brisk, partly due to the market demand for alternative, non-fossil fuel based forms of fuel and energy.

The organization has even been beefing up its marketing strategies to sell more of the briquettes.

"Unlike other charcoal, the briquettes we produce is environment-friendly. We use recovered biomass and at the same time reduce cutting of trees for fuel and traditional charcoal making," EA president Valeriano Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez said it would help the market know that for every ton of charcoal briquettes produced, about 80 trees are saved.

In Talisay, about 180 meters of river banks have been covered by the erosion control project.

The P1.2-million it got through Panibagong Paraan in January 2004 would extend the coverage by another 210 meters.

The organization also took time to plant bamboos at the upper portion of the river bank, along with some forest and fruit-bearing trees to further augment the income of the group members, most of whom live along the riverbanks.

As for the Ibajaynons, the P1-million grant from the World Bank and the Canadian International Development Agency, together with the counterpart fund from the Foundation for Sustainable Society Inc., Rotary Club of Kalibo and local government of Ibajay, were used to acquire iron net-weaving equipment, spacious work stations and storage facilities.

The Ibajaynons now have a steady source of income and they are now taking turns teaching the trade to other people from neighboring communities.

The World Bank and partner agencies hope to bring out more ideas like these as Panibagong Paraan (New Way) enters its third year.

Joining the project are international and local development projects such as the United States Agency for International Development, Asian Development Bank, League of Corporate Foundations and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement.

For 2006, the theme is "Development with Equity," which centers on projects that will increase income and income opportunities, improve access to social services, infrastructure and utilities, improving access to land and other assets, access to financial structures and systems and strengthening participation in decision-making.

The project ideas will be evaluated based on innovation, replicability and impact on the beneficiaries/target groups.

"Through Panibagong Paraan 2006, we look forward to moving toward a Philippines where all members of society have similar chances to become socially active, politically influential and economically productive," said DSWD Secretary Luwalhati Pablo.

(Panibagong Paraan is open to entries. Call 637-5855.)

KING JAMES AUCTION CALENDAR
ON-SITE AUCTION
KAMAMESHI RESTAURANT AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : DEC. 4-5, 9:00AM - 5:00PM
SITE LOCATION : #104 JSP BLDG., TOMAS MORATO, Q.C.
AUCTION DATE: DECEMBER 6, 2005 (TUE), 10:30AM
CONSISTING OF S/S HIGH PRESSURE STOVE, S/S LOW PRESSURE STOVE, S/S SINK, S/S PREPARATION TABLE, S/S RANGE HOOD, S/S CHILLER, RESTAURANT TABLES & CHAIRS, (4) SPLIT TYPE AIRCON, (1) PACKAGED-TYPE AIRCON, TABLES, CHAIRS, MOSLER VAULT, COMPUTER SET, BUNDY CLOCK, CUTTLERY, UTENSILS, ASSTD. GLASSWARES AND MANY MORE.
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SCRAP METAL AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES : DEC. 12-13, 9:00AM - 5:00PM
SITE LOCATION :KING JAMES AUCTION PHILIPPINE HEADQUARTERS
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MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

ALORAN
LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 241 sqm. F.A.: 108 sqm.
Lot 26-Denr0652-Part, Bo. Dalisay
Minimum Bid . 258,000.00
LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 624 sqm. F.A.: 240 sqm.
Psu-245071, Dalisay
Minimum Bid 368,000.00
JIMENEZ
LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 18,790 sqm. F.A.: 191 sqm.
6023 Brgy. Road, Taganas, Now Part Of Naga
Minimum Bid : 1,094,000.00
LOT 4 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 483 sqm. F.A.: 236 sqm.
835 Dunas St., Naga
Minimum Bid 293,000.00
LOPEZ JAENA
LOT 5 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 401 sqm. F.A.: 98 sqm.
Lot 2295-A, Centro
Minimum Bid : 184,000.00
LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 388 sqm. F.A.: 90 sqm.
Lot 2201-A, Eastern Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 283,000.00
LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 175 sqm. F.A.: 105 sqm.
Lot 2183-A, Eastern Pob.
Minimum Bid : 139,000.00
LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 516 sqm. F.A.: 196 sqm.
Lot 2972-B, Sibugon
Minimum Bid 317,000.00
OROQUIETA
LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 105 sqm. F.A.: 75 sqm.
Lot 7258, Canubay
Minimum Bid 327,000.00
LOT 10 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 2,954 sqm.
Lot 3953 & 6684, San Vicente Alto
Minimum Bid : 435,000.00
LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 825 sqm.
5564-A, Talairon
Minimum Bid . 159,000.00
LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 825 sqm.
5564-B, Talairon
Minimum Bid : 284,000.00
LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 824 sqm.
5564-C & 5564-E, Talairon
Minimum Bid : 264,000.00
LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 5,199 sqm.
6112 Villaflor
Minimum Bid 683,000.00
OZAMIS
LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 579-L & 579-K Circumferential Road, Aguada
Minimum Bid 210,000.00
LOT 16 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 262 sqm.
Lot 7840-A Alley Bo. Annex
Minimum Bid : 1,379,000.00
LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 348 sqm. F.A.: 68 sqm.
Lot 8330-D-5 Bañadero,
Minimum Bid : 272,000.00
LOT 18 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 380 sqm. F.A.: 126 sqm.
Lot 3213-A-7 National Highway, Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 832,000.00
LOT 19 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,641 sqm.
Lot 3221-B-2-D Bañadero
Minimum Bid 403,000.00
LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 200 sqm. F.A.: 225 sqm.
Lot 3217-D-2-B Alley, Mt School Campus Site, Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 662,000.00
LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 2,506 sqm.
Lot 9163 Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 282,000.00
LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 128 sqm.
Lot 7 Alley Bañadero
Minimum Bid 48,000.00
LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 453 sqm.
Lot 3194-B-3-D, Sulod, Bo., Bañadero
Minimum Bid : 191,000.00
LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 464 sqm. F.A.: 540 sqm.
464 Existing Road, Baybay, Triunfo
Minimum Bid . 2,410,000.00
LOT 25 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 579-H Biboon
Minimum Bid 120,000.00
LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 237 sqm. F.A.: 108 sqm.
Lot 6102-D Undeveloped Alley, Carangan
Minimum Bid : 332,000.00
LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 140 sqm.
Lot 30E Existing Alley, Bo. Gango
Minimum Bid : 680,000.00
LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 150 sqm. F.A.: 33 sqm.
Lot 1081-A-1 Gango
Minimum Bid . 108,000.00
LOT 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 95 sqm.
Lot 3-E, Bo. Gango
Minimum Bid : 621,000.00
LOT 30 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 210 sqm.
Lot 479-A Quince De November St., Katagalogan
Minimum Bid : 861,000.00
LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 220 sqm.
Lot 7934-F Bo. Lam-An
Minimum Bid : 150,000.00
LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 220 sqm.
Lot 7934-C Bo. Lam-An
Minimum Bid : 150,000.00
LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 303 sqm.
Lot 6 Don D. Rosano St., Las Aguedas
Minimum Bid : 1,288,000.00
LOT 34 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 4,015 sqm.
Lot 9137-B,C, & D Maningcol
Minimum Bid : 621,000.00
LOT 35 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 405 sqm.
Lot 630-H Alley, Vayson Village; Maningcol
Minimum Bid : 104,000.00
LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 7,272 sqm. F.A.: 148 sqm.
Lot 837-A Baybay, Bo. Maningcol
Minimum Bid : 1,735,000.00
LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 825 sqm. F.A.: 126 sqm.
Lot 7795-A & 7795-B R. Magsaysay Blvd. Bo. New Annex
Minimum Bid . 843,000.00
LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 83 sqm.
7165-C Bo. San Roque
Minimum Bid , 94,000.00
LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 75 sqm. F.A.: 118 sqm.
9873 Baybay, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid ; 124,000.00
LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 396 sqm. F.A.: 105 sqm.
Lot 7171-B Road, Tinago
Minimum Bid ; 338,000.00
PANAON
LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 223 sqm. F.A.: 62 sqm.
Lot 961-A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 362,000.00
LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 2,358 sqm. F.A.: 400 sqm.
901-A Punta
Minimum Bid 389,000.00
PLARIDEL
LOT 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 142 sqm. F.A.: 99 sqm.
Lot 45-C, Panalsalan
Minimum Bid : 190,000.00
LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 560 sqm. F.A.: 107 sqm.
Lot 4233-A, Lao, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid 341,000.00
SINACABAN
LOT 45 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 788 sqm. F.A.: 144 sqm.
1021 & 1022, Centro Poblacion
Minimum Bid 446,000.00
TANGUB
LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 239 sqm.
Lot 788-F Provincial Road, Dimalooc
Minimum Bid : 27,000.00
LOT 47 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 448 sqm.
Lot 786-A & B Provincial Road, Labuyo
Minimum Bid : 51,000.00
LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 123 sqm. F.A.: 123 sqm.
318-B-3 Interior Lot, Dimaloc
Minimum Bid 190,000.00
TUDELA
LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 12,150 sqm. F.A.: 52 sqm.
5048-A, Bo. Barra Road, Bo. Barra
Minimum Bid : 732,000.00
LOT 50 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 50,904 sqm.
5048-C, Bo. Barra
Minimum Bid : 192,000.00
LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 848 sqm. F.A.: 133 sqm.
538 Municipal Road, Centro Hulpa
Minimum Bid . 431,000.00
LOT 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 217 sqm. F.A.: 158 sqm.
352-Part, Nat'L. Highway, Centro Napu
Minimum Bid : 274,000.00
LOT 53 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 808 sqm. F.A.: 122 sqm.
Lot 744, Upper Centro
Minimum Bid . 211,000.00
LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 358 sqm. F.A.: 102 sqm.
4096-A, Dolores, Now Yahong
Minimum Bid : 59,000.00

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

DAPITAN
LOT 55 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,618 sqm.
Lot 501-B Lawaan, Dawo
Minimum Bid 850,000.00
DIPOLOG
LOT 56 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 454 sqm.
1312-A-8 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 116,000.00
LOT 57 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 454 sqm.
1312-A-9 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 116,000.00
LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 266 sqm.
1312-A-10 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 68,000.00
LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 265 sqm.
1312-A-11 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 68,000.00
LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 530 sqm.
1312-A-12 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 136,000.00
LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 265 sqm.
1312-A-13 Existing Road, Sta. Filomena
Minimum Bid : 68,000.00
LOT 62 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,318 sqm. F.A.: 98 sqm.
Lot 1867-C-2-G-4-B & 1867-B-2-B Brgy Road Gulayon
Minimum Bid : 712,000.00
LOT 63 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 406 sqm.
Lot 999-A-1 Easement Row Mputok
Minimum Bid . 208,000.00
LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,220 sqm.
Lot 998-B, Miputak
Minimum Bid . 549,000.00
LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 620 sqm.
Lot 4-H, Sicayab
Minimum Bid : 248,000.00
LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,211.12 sqm.
Lot 2613-I-2 Sicayab
Minimum Bid : 291,000.00
LOT 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 469 sqm. F.A.: 326 sqm.
Lot 721-H-6 Subd. Road, Turno
Minimum Bid . 1,566,000.00
LOT 68 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 384 sqm. F.A.: 125 sqm.
Lot 6 & Lot 3, Block 4, Turno
Minimum Bid . 585,000.00
LOT 69 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 862 sqm.
Lot 9 Turno
Minimum Bid 414,000.00
LABASON
LOT 70 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 73 sqm. F.A.: 58 sqm.
Lot 2341-A Municipal Road Imelda District
Minimum Bid 54,000.00
LILOY
LOT 71 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 4,157 sqm.
Lot E Bo. Baybay
Minimum Bid 1,164,000.00
MANUKAN
LOT 72 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 680 sqm. F.A. 50 sqm.
Lot 2704-A-5-B-3 National Highway, Diqus
Minimum Bid 159,000.00
MUTIA
LOT 73 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 793 sqm. F.A. 144 sqm.
Lot 3375 Municipal Road, Poblacion
Minimum Bid 173,000.00
LOT 74 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 405 sqm. F.A.: 75 sqm.
Lot 492-B-4 Brgy Road
Minimum Bid 105,000.00
LOT 75 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 549 sqm. F.A. 120 sqm.
Lot 3479 Nat'L. Road, Poblacion
Minimum Bid 180,000.00
LOT 76 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 608 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot 3326 Corner Burgos & Magsaysay St.
Minimum Bid 144,000.00
LOT 77 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 711 sqm.
Lot 492-B-1 Brgy Road
Minimum Bid : 68,000.00
LOT 78 - W/ MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 594 sqm.
Lot 3323, Barangay Sto. Tomas, Poblacion
Minimum Bid : 78,000.00
LOT 79 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 594 sqm.
Lot 3312, Poblacion
Minimum Bid 153,000.00
ROXAS
LOT 80 - W. MAKESHIFT IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 563 sqm.
Lot 1-E Municipal Road, Langatian
Minimum Bid : 178,000.00
LOT 81 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 565 sqm.
Lot 2030-B Identical To Lot 4747, Pls 40, Langatian
Minimum Bid 323,000.00
SINDANGAN
LOT 82 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 803 sqm. F.A.: 58 sqm.
Lot 3127 Existing Road, Disud
Minimum Bid : 132,000.00
LOT 83 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 300 sqm.
Lot 209-A-8-A-3 Bo. Disud
Minimum Bid : 168,000.00
LOT 84 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 979 sqm.
Lot 558-F Bo. Disud
Minimum Bid : 275,000.00
LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 400 sqm.
Lot 16 Bo. Goleo
Minimum Bid : 112,000.00
LOT 86 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,816 sqm. F.A.: 360 sqm.
Lot 1, 2, 3, Rada St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid 2,092,000.00
LOT 87 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 285 sqm. F.A.: 95 sqm.
Lot 4 General Luna St., Poblacion
Minimum Bid 240,000.00
SIOCON
LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 612 sqm.
Lot 2-A-2-A, Poblacion
Minimum Bid 166,000.00
TAMPILISAN
LOT 89 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 800 sqm.
Lot 1650 Nat'L Highway, Sto. Nino
Minimum Bid : 45,000.00

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They knew nothing about food business (but they love to eat)

THERE IS A LOT WOULD-BE ENTREPRENEURS can learn from the experience of Carlo and Patricia Mesina, the husband and wife team behind the successful Kulinarya and Cascada restaurants.

But if there's one lesson that stands out, it would have to be the one that says it's possible to challenge traditional ways of doing business and still succeed.

First, most people are taught that to succeed at entrepreneurship, you have to know the ins and outs of the business you plan to go into. Ironically, Carlo and Patricia did not know anything about running a restaurant. But they did love food and eating out.

"It sounds funny, but my family was in the construction business—we built swimming pools," laughs Carlo, an electronics engineer and graduate of De La Salle University. Wife Patricia has a degree in advertising and fine arts from the University of Santo Tomas.

It was their mutual interest in food that gave them the idea of trying out the restaurant business. It also played a crucial role in their success. "We loved eating out. I guess if you're trying to find a connection, that would be it," says Carlo. "But every time we ate out, only a few restaurants could really satisfy our eating experience. That's when we thought of putting up our own restaurant."

Again, here is where Carlo and Patricia's experience diverges from traditional ways of doing business. Most experts would advise that would-be entrepreneurs start out armed with a clear concept, comprehensive feasibility studies, well-thought out marketing plans and a vision of the direction they want their business to take.

Carlo and Patricia had none of the above. Initially, when they opened their first restaurant at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, they weren't even sure what kind of food it would serve. Chinese? Filipino? Italian? Japanese?

"We didn't have a clear concept when we started," confesses Carlo. "All we knew was that we didn't want to be associated with just one type of cuisine. From our experience, we knew that as restaurateurs, we had to be able to meet the changing needs of our market. That's why we came up with the name Kulinarya." In September of 2002, they opened Cascada at the new Greenbelt 3.

Strangely enough, both Carlo and Patricia say that their non-culinary experience comes in handy. Carlo, an engineer by training, says his no-nonsense, practical approach to things makes him a natural for the operations side of the business. "In engineering, we're taught to be analytical, which is why I'm in charge of operations, procedures and standards," he says. "My wife, who is in advertising and fine arts, is in charge of the food. Her artistic background comes in handy, because she's the one who mixes the colors and takes care of the presentation of the food."

Kulinarya and Cascada are doing well. What pointers can Carlo give would-be entrepreneurs planning to go into the restaurant business like them?

First, he says, would be to keep studying. Attend seminars. Read books. "My only background in the restaurant business came from reading books," says Carlo.

Second, stay on top of your market. "You should constantly be on the lookout for what your market wants," advises Carlo. After studying the Cascada market, Carlo and Patricia realized that what people wanted was a restaurant that could be classified as fine dining in terms of ambience and service, but casual dining as far as prices go.

Which is why they come up with a new menu that includes items like "Pot Roast Beef" for P245/P295; the "Blackened Fillet of Sole" for P230/P280 and the "Pork Tenderloin Saltimbocca" for P245/P295.

Lastly, Carlo attributes their success to an age-old marketing strategy: word of mouth. To him, there is no form of advertising more effective than a satisfied customer.

IT'S POSSIBLE to challenge traditional ways of doing business and still succeed, according to couple Carlo and Patricia Mesina, owners of Kulinarya and Cascada restaurants.

Livelihood seminars set

LEARN HOW TO PROCESS MEAT AND FISH the easiest way and earn. Or learn to do fresh flower arrangements to add to the family income.

In line with the government's project to give jobs and business for those who would like to venture into meat and fish processing business, the Golden Treasure Skills Development Program (GTSDP) will conduct a one-day seminar on "Meat and Fish Processing" to be held at UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Avenue corner Ylanan Street, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City on Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On the same day, a talk on fresh flower arrangement will be held at the Benetiz Alumni Center UP Diliman, also from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The meat processing seminar will discuss Sourcing of Materials, Costing and Entrepreneurship on how to start and maintain a business.

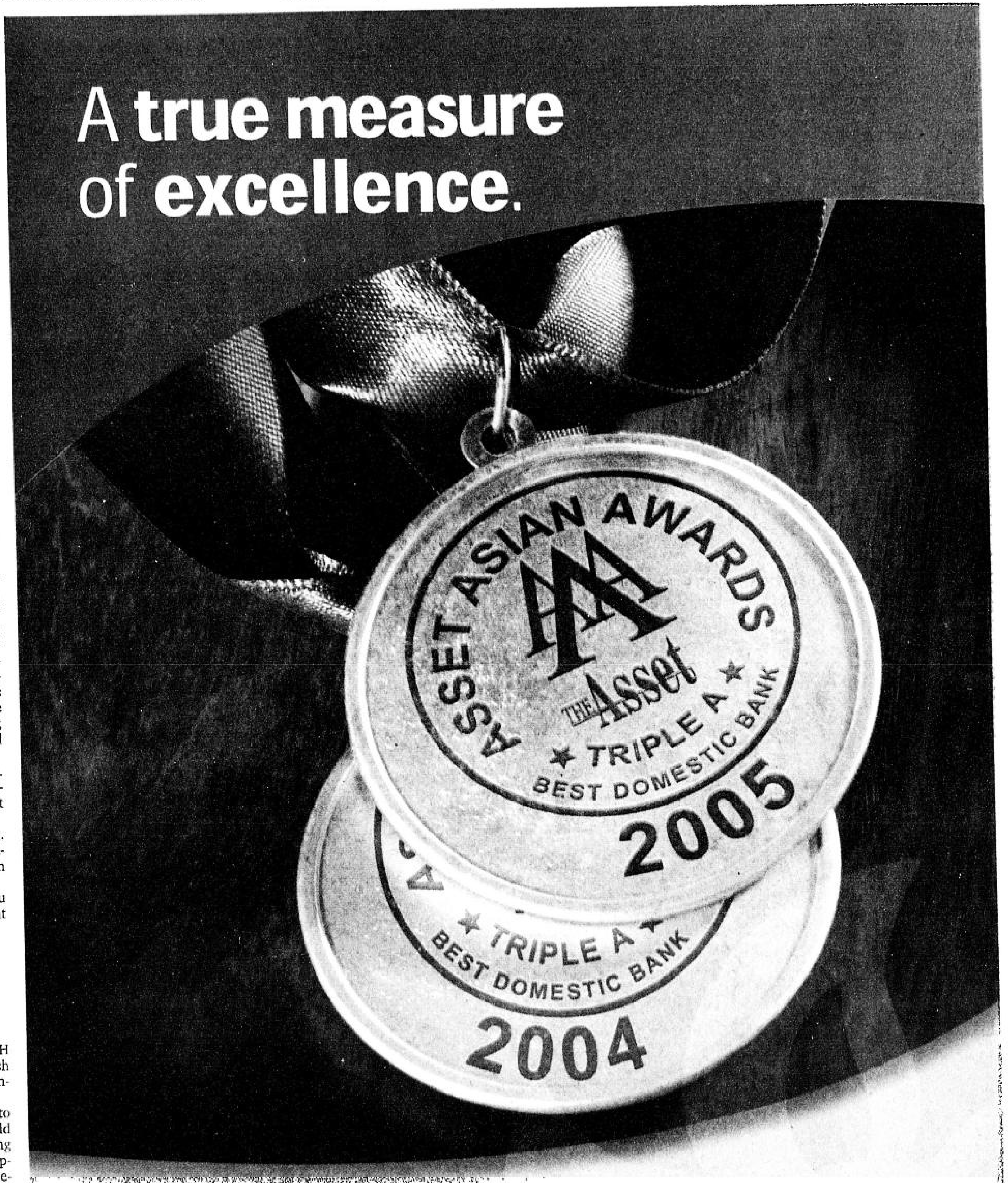
There will be a hands-on experiences on how to make tocino, skinless longganisa, embutido, siomai, chicken ham, bangus de boning, fishball, fish kikiam, fish fillet and fish burger. Bonus lecture: Corned beef and squid ball.

Participants will receive a certificate of training. Lunch, snacks and materials will be provided.

Course contents of the flower arrangement include materials sourcing and costing; effective methods in the flower arrangements; lecture on smart entrepreneurship (tips on how to start and manage your own business).

Added features include hands-on and actual demonstration of flower arrangements like circular or dome shape, presidential/ crescent, tropical, inaugural or standing, bridal bouquet, basket for flower girls, triangular, corsage or Bottonier, Hogartian or L-shaped and Topiari.

Those who are interested to attend may call 952-29-34/ 952-40-28/ 421-85-93/ 951-29-66 and 436-78-26 for reservation.



Equitable PCI Bank is the Best Domestic Bank in the Philippines for the second year in a row.

Hong Kong-based The Asset, one of Asia's leading regional finance publications, has again named Equitable PCI Bank as "The Best Domestic Bank in the Philippines for 2005" in The Asset Triple A Country Awards.

After an extensive qualitative and quantitative rating of the Bank's performance, Equitable PCI Bank was recognized for its excellence in the financial services industry in the country.

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SUPERBRAND 2005 Gold

Metro Drug utilizes GlobeSolutions' TxtConnect

METRO DRUG INC, ONE OF THE top pharmaceutical distribution companies in the country, is tapping GlobeSolutions, the leading provider of mobile business solutions, for more efficient communication with customers and key personnel. This will be done through GlobeSolutions' TxtConnect service, which allows a company to send text advisories to employees, customers, or other business contacts.

TxtConnect provides a convenient way of relaying vital information in SMS format. Recipients are pre-registered in the database, and each message is sent with an ID number that validates its origin. The recipients can also respond to the messages, enabling quick response to customer queries and easy verification of information.

The head of Globe Telecom's enterprise business group, Gil Genio, welcomed Metro Drug into the growing roster of GlobeSolutions clients who have linked up through TxtConnect: "GlobeSolutions understands the demanding requirements of distribution and logistics companies. We are pleased to provide Metro Drug with a quick, convenient, and cost-effective means to communicate with their clients and sales force."

Metro Drug is one of the biggest distributors of pharmaceutical products in the Philippines. Its clients include top names in the health care industry, such as Boehringer-Ingelheim (Philippines) Inc, Wyeth Philippines, WhiteHall, Sanofi-Synthelabo, GX International, Marketlink and 3M Pharma. "Our business is fast-paced and increasingly reliant on electronic transactions," explains Deborra Ilagan, Metro Drug's vice president for human resources. "Globe's complete package of telecommunication services has always been a reliable business tool for us. Since we are very satisfied with the quality of their service, we decided to utilize TxtConnect as well, in order to increase the company's overall productivity."

According to Metro Drug's vice president for customer service Bartolome Nadala, the company plans to use TxtConnect in many of its services. "There are many business situations where the TxtConnect service can be applied," he affirms. "For instance, our customer service department can simply text the clients to confirm their orders. In addition, we can also keep track of the activities of our sales and delivery people, and the billing and collection systems will be made more efficient. The customers, in turn, can inform us right away about any concerns."

Dan David, Globe's head of corporate wireless business, adds: "Our clients' positive experiences with TxtConnect demonstrate the profound impact of the mobile revolution on today's corporate environment," he says. "GlobeSolutions continually aims to produce innovative services tailored to meet diverse business needs."

Put your business on the fast track to success with GlobeSolutions. Call the GlobeSolutions hotline (730-1999) to inquire about TxtConnect and other business communication services, or e-mail globesolutions@globetel.com.ph.

Globe Solutions
making great things possible for business
METRO DRUG, INC.
PHILIPPINES

SEEN during the contract signing are (from left): Maridol Ylanan, head, GlobeSolutions-sales, enterprise business group; Dan David, head, Globe corporate business enterprise group; Gil Genio, head, Globe enterprise business group; Deborra Ilagan, VP-human resources division, Metro Drug Inc; Janette Jakosalen, VP-finance, Metro Drug Inc; and Bartolome Nadala, VP-customer service-IT department, Metro Drug Inc.

'THE HEALTHY DUO' SCHOOL TOUR

Kellogg's Tony the Tiger wows the kids at the Piagetian Guided Educational Center in Quezon City last Oct. 21, on the essential benefits of good breakfast habits to become healthy and lively throughout the day. Entitled 'Magical World of Good Nutrition', the program of 'The Healthy Duo' - Kellogg's Corn Flakes and Alaska Fresh Milk has already visited over 30 elementary schools in Metro Manila, and more to follow. The children were taught the benefits of proper nutrition and the importance of eating a healthy breakfast. Watch out for the brightly colored Tiger and his magician friend visiting your school soon.

PNBGEN RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES

On the occasion of its 14th anniversary, the PNB General Insurers Co Inc, the wholly-owned non-life insurance subsidiary of the Philippine National Bank, gave certificates of appreciation to its two outstanding employees, Mesdames Lorna Manalo and Cinderella Pajarillaga (second and third from left, respectively). Beaming with pride with the duo's accomplishments are (from left) PNB president and CEO Omar Byron Mier, Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association chair Herminia Jacinto and PNB director Domingo Tee Chua.

Bits Clips

Verdana Homes Mamplasan Family Xmas

WITNESS THE WARMTH AND WONDER OF THE holiday season with your loved ones at Verdana Homes Mamplasan on Dec. 4, with the community's special family Christmas celebration and open house. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., young families and other prospective residents will be treated to heartwarming holiday activities that epitomize the cozy suburban lifestyle that the neighborhood offers. Spreading the festive spirit are caroling singers who will serenade guests. Meanwhile, kids get to experience the joys of traditional gift-giving at the holiday arts and crafts corner, where they will learn to create cute knick-knacks and other decorative items that they can give as presents to family and friends. For more information on Verdana Homes Mamplasan, call 888-0000 or email cil-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.verdanamamplasan.com.ph. Interested parties may also visit the Verdana Homes Mamplasan sales booth in Alabang Town Center.

BayanTel invitational golf

BAYAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS INC (BAYANTEL) is scheduled to host the Club BayanTel Invitational Golf with the theme The Great CEO Escape on Dec. 5, at the newly opened and highly exclusive Ayala Greenfields Gold and Leisure Club in Laguna. The Club BayanTel Invitational Golf is an exclusive event for CEOs and top executives of valued corporate clients of BayanTel. BayanTel CEO Gabby Lopez will lead the ceremonial tee-off at 7 a.m., and he is expected to be joined by top executives from BayanTel's corporate customers in the different industries such as banking, manufacturing, government, business process outsourcing, among others. All invited guests are requested to contact Benson Tanoja of BayanTel at 449-4038.

Health Emergency Week

INTERNATIONAL HEALTH EXECUTIVES WILL meet during the Health Emergency Week on Dec. 5 to 7 at the Manila Hotel, to focus on how to upgrade the capability of civilian and military facilities and staff to deal with biochemical and nuclear accidents or terrorist attacks. During the event, the HEMS (Health Emergency Management Systems) 2005 exhibition will be held. It is an international exhibit which will locate under one roof the emergency equipment, pharmaceuticals, supplies and services. Event manager is Leverage Int'l. Those interested to join the exhibit or attend the convention may contact Leverage at 818-6828, 810-1389.

ISHS '56 golden year

CLASS 1956 OF THE ILOcos Sur High School will hold their Golden Anniversary Celebration on Jan. 20, in Vigan City. For Details, call the class secretariat at 911-6435 or 913-7112.

SSHS '66 40th grand reunion

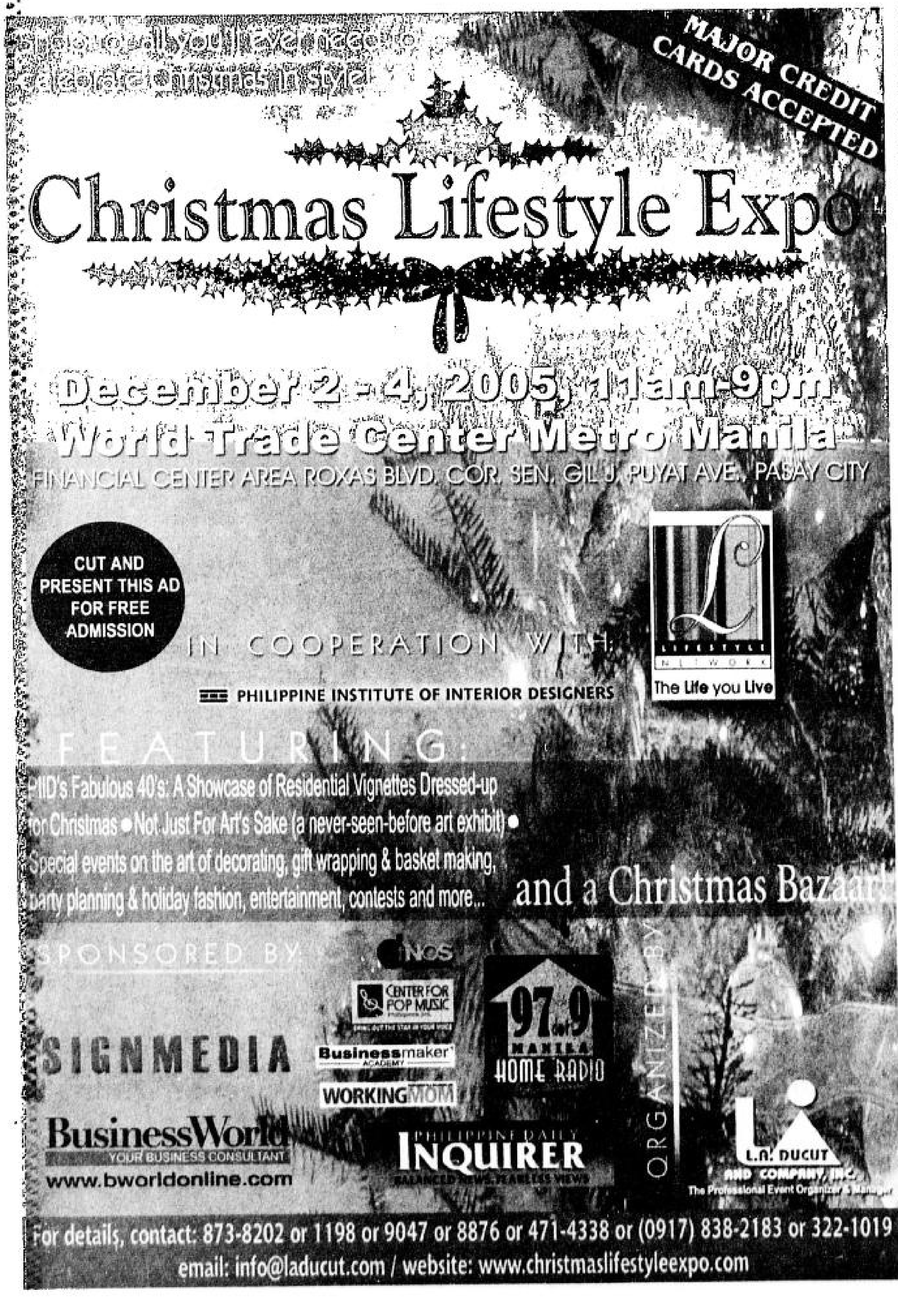
ST. STEPHEN'S HIGH SCHOOL CLASS '66 WILL BE holding its 40th Grand reunion on Feb. 18, (Saturday) at the Diamond Hotel, Roxas Boulevard at 7 p.m. A dozen or so of batchmates from abroad will be coming to join in the celebration, and other activities before and after the reunion. For more details and particulars, please contact: Tomas Ong - 326-4713/925-5887/0917-8371251 or Judy Yan Co - 371-0286/373-8737/ 929-3006/0917-5320705.

NFWC honors Outstanding Mothers of 2005

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS of the Philippines headed by Ester Sta. Ana will honor the Outstanding Mothers of 2005 on Dec. 5 at Escoda Hall, NFWC Bldg., 962 J. Ll Escoda St., Ermita, Manila. Gilda Pico, president of the Land Bank of the Philippines will be the guest speaker. The five outstanding mothers are: Catalina Vitangcol Vda. de Alcantara of Laguna Federation of Women's Clubs; Corazon Hernandez Vda. de Delos Santos of Ligao Woman's Club, Albay; Epifania Conde Vda. de Lumotan of Santiago City Federation of Women's Clubs; Lourdes Jandusay Vda. de Sulit of Boac Woman's Club, Marinduque; and Lolita Centeno Vda. de Tolentino of Malasiqui Federation of Women's Clubs, Pangasinan.

ACS Phil hosts Annual General Meeting

THE ACS PHILIPPINE CHAPTER WILL HOST THE Annual General Meeting at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel on Dec. 7, simultaneous with the 61st Clinical Congress of the Philippine College of Surgeons. The Business/Fellowship will culminate with the Induction into Chapter of Filipino surgeons who made it as fellows of the prestigious ACS. Dr. Ben Gaddi, the incumbent ACS governor, enjoins all ACS to attend this fellowship meeting and be counted to the calling as fellows of the ACS. For further information, contact the office of the ACS governor at 721-1392, 723-0101 local 6236 or email bsgaddi@yahoo.com.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Republic of the Philippines
National Economic and Development Authority
Caraga Regional Office
Nimfa Tiu Bldg., J. Rosales Ave., Butuan City
Telefax No. (085) 342-5613, (085) 341-7685
Email add: cfsp_neda@caraga.bayandsl.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Contract No. FLGC-05-002
Name of Contract : Construction of Farm Level Grains Center (FLGC)
Location : Brgy. Abilan, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte
Brief Desciption : A Grains Center comprising of a Warehouse, Husk Tank, Solar Dryer and Perimeter Fence
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : Five Million Seven Hundred Sixty Thousand Ninety-Six Pesos and 40/100 (Php 5,760,096.40)
Contract Duration : One Hundred Forty Nine (149) Days

The National Economic and Development Authority, Caraga Regional Office (NEDA Caraga), through a Grant per Memorandum of Agreement with Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) for the implementation of the Caraga Food Sufficiently Project, Phase II, intends to apply the above specified amount being the Approved Budget for the Contract.

NEDA Caraga now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the construction of the Buenavista FLGC.

Bidders should possess a valid Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Document.

Applicants must submit their LOIs on or before 9:00 AM of December 19, 2005 at NEDA Caraga Regional Office and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Hundred Pesos (Php 300.00). Applicants shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the NEDA Caraga Regional Office on or before 12:00 noon of December 19, 2005, where opening of Eligibility Documents will follow on the same day at 2:00 PM. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis.

NEDA Caraga will notify applicants on the result of evaluation of the Eligibility Documents on December 20, 2005 and issue Bid Documents to eligible bidders on the same date.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as prescribed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations. Part A (IRR-A), of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Only those bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

A complete set of Bid Documents may be purchased by eligible bidders at a nonrefundable fee of Three Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (Php 3,200.00) upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat. The Bidding Documents shall be purchased personally by the duly authorized representative of the bidders not later than 9:00 AM of December 23, 2005.

NEDA Caraga will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all eligible bidders at 10:00 AM of December 28, 2005 at NEDA Caraga Regional Office.

Bidders must submit their bids to NEDA Caraga on or before 12:00 noon of January 9, 2006. Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of a Bank Guarantee and in the amount of Eighty-Six Thousand Four Hundred One Pesos and 45/100 (Php 86,401.45) or equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on January 9, 2006, 3:00 PM at NEDA Caraga Regional Office. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bid opening. Only bids from eligible bidders will be opened. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. A contract will be awarded only to the lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder determined as such during post-qualification.

Completion of the Works is required by the end of One Hundred Forty-Nine (149) Calendar Days.

NEDA Caraga reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JOHNNY T. LIM
BAC Chairperson

(PDI-Nov. 27 & Dec.4, 2005)

From a one-room affair to a multimillion-peso business venture

AIRLIFT ASIA INC. (AAI) started out with just a one-room office and a staff of only 10 employees in 1981. Today it is a multimillion-peso business in an industry that has become one of the pillars of trade in the country.

As AAI celebrates its anniversary on Dec. 8, the company is seriously planning to set up representative offices in the Asean region within the next two years.

"We want to be the first 100-percent Filipino-owned company to offer freight forwarding services outside of the Philippines," AAI chair Rico V. Brizuela says. "We are challenging our original vision because our customers are asking us to position ourselves overseas."

AAI employs 500 people in its head and satellite offices in Cebu and Davao, with about 14 percent of them having a service record of 10 years or more.

"Our employees work everyday with the dedication and commitment to render the best work possible. They have what we Filipinos call 'malasakit' and this has allowed us to persevere and grow. There is always that daily effort on the part of our employees to achieve our vision," says Brizuela.

AAI has been rewarded with an ISO 9001 certification and is one of the top 10 performers in recent years according to the standards of the Civil Aeronautics Board. It is the only Filipino-owned airfreight forwarding company to have gained such recognition.

The company is among the top 1,500 corporations in the Philippines in terms of sales revenue and profitability. It now has several affiliates which include Airlift Asia Customs Brokerage Inc., AAI Logistics Inc., JIT Freight Inc., A2Z Logistics Inc., Asia Ocean Services Inc., Freight Assurance Agency Inc., AAI Business PRO and AAI Charity Foundation Inc.

AAI is consistently among the top 10 cargo agents of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). AAI is also the exclusive agent in the Philippines of the World Air Cargo Organization (Waco) and is an active member of the Aircargo Forwarders of the Philippines (Afpi), Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines (Seipi), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

AAI's clients include Amkor Technology Phils., Smart Communications, Analog Devices Phils., SCA Hygine Products Corp., Maxim Integrated Products Inc., Fuji Xerox Phils., Toshiba Information Equipment Phils. Inc., Integrated Microelectronics Inc. SCA, Intel Phils., Nidec, Marubun/Arrow, Fujitsu, ITW Meritex, Ford Motor Co., Wellcom, Pillsburry, Mazda, Nokia, Pepsi and Toyota.

New resto outlet opens

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA LAUNched yet another branch in line with its expansion program. It opened its newest outlet in Tomas Morato corner Eugenio Lopez Drive (near ABS CBN) in Quezon City.

The opening of the 120-seater, two-story store brought to 13 the total number of Super Bowl and Big Buddha branches in Metro Manila. The company plans to pursue its expansion plans next year by bringing to 20 its total number of stores with the opening of six more stores in Metro Manila and key urban cities in select provincial locations.

This year alone, the restaurant chain opened three new stores in three prime locations namely the Gateway Mall in Araneta Center; Bluewave Mall in Marikina, and SM San Lazaro Mall in Manila.

Established in 2001, Super Bowl is owned and operated by Big Buddha Restaurant Inc., which also operates Big Buddha Restaurant in Greenbelt 3.

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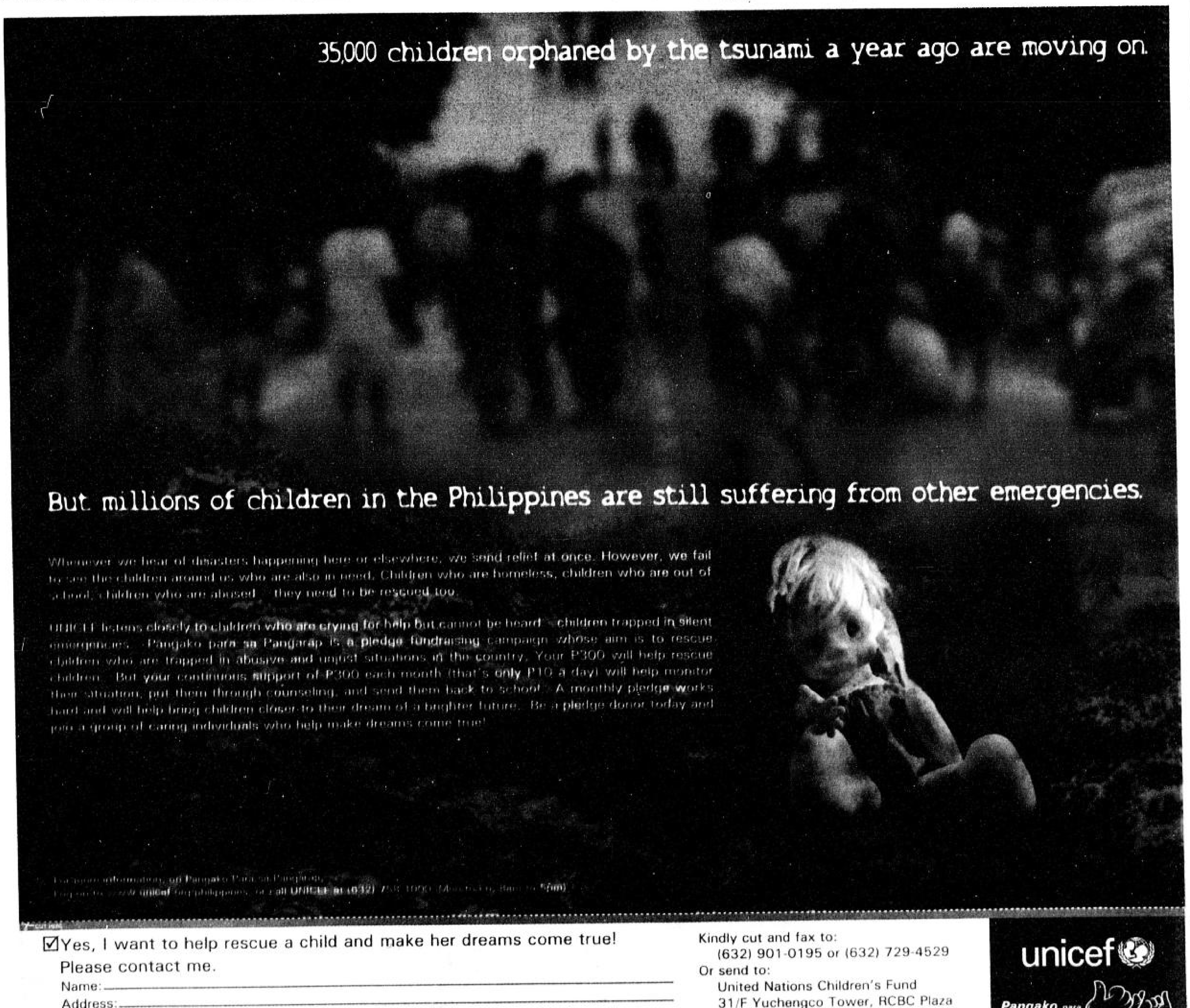
Promo runs from November 01 to December 31, 2005 See flyers for more details. Per DTI NCR Permit Number 2878. Series of 2005. Member: PDIC. Maximum deposit insurance for each depositor: ₱250,000.00



35,000 children orphaned by the tsunami a year ago are moving on.

But millions of children in the Philippines are still suffering from other emergencies.

Whenever we hear of disasters happening here or elsewhere, we send relief at once. However, we fail to see the children around us who are also in need. Children who are homeless, children who are out of school, children who are abused – they need to be rescued too.

UNICEF listens closely to children who are crying for help but cannot be heard – children trapped in silent emergencies. Pangako para sa Pangarap is a pledge fundraising campaign whose aim is to rescue children who are trapped in abusive and unjust situations in the country. Your P300 will help rescue children. But your continuous support of P300 each month (that's only P10 a day) will help monitor their situation, put them through counseling, and send them back to school. A monthly pledge works hard and will help bring children closer to their dream of a brighter future. Be a pledge donor today and join a group of caring individuals who help make dreams come true!

For more information on Pangako Para sa Pangarap, log on to www.unicef.org/philippines, or call UNICEF at (632) [illegible] 5pm)

☑Yes, I want to help rescue a child and make her dreams come true!
Please contact me.
Name:
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Kindly cut and fax to:
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Or send to:
United Nations Children's Fund
31/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City
Philippines

unicef
Pangako para sa Pangarap

Touch Mobile offers free Emergency Text service

TM (THE NEW AND IMPROVED Touch Mobile), the most affordable prepaid cellphone service in the country today, offers another relevant and valuable feature to its users with its introduction of Emergency Text. This service enables TM subscribers to send one free emergency text message per day even with zero cellphone load. TM is the only cellphone service catering to the working class segment that offers this emergency texting feature.

TM head Nonie Busuego emphasized that this free service is not a promo but a permanent feature. "We want to provide our subscribers with added value services that are most useful in their daily lives. The Emergency Text service will be very handy during urgent situations when subscribers need to communicate but belatedly realize that they don't have any remaining cellphone load," Busuego explained. "For example, a taxi driver who gets into an accident can text a friend or his dispatcher for help even if he has no load; or a foreman who encounters an on-site emergency can request for a callback from his supervisor or contractor," he added.

With TM's Emergency Text, subscribers may send one of the two emergency text messages that can either ask for a callback or load. To request for a callback, text *103*(11-digit TM or Globe number)# then press the call button to send. This will automatically send the message "PLEASE CALL ME". Should a TM user need to ask for cell phone load, all they have to do is text *104*(11-digit TM or Globe number)# then press the call button, and this will send the message "PLEASE SEND ME LOAD" to the intended recipient.

Emergency Text is a relevant addition to the TM Power Piso roster of services that cater to the specific needs of the working class Pinoy. Power Piso Call offers the lowest call rate among the cell phone networks at P1 per minute after the second minute. The first two minutes are charged at a flat rate of P5.50 per minute. Piso Text allows TM subscribers to save more by spending only P1 per text, even to other networks. Other Power Piso services include news updates, job search, weather reports and price updates all for just P1 per download. With the new Emergency Text feature, TM further strengthens its offerings for the Pinoy blue-collar workers.

Sharp breaks new ground with 'Mega-Contrast' LCD

SHARP CORP HAS BROKEN NEW ground with its development of a "Mega-Contrast" Advanced Super View Premium LCD that defies conventional wisdom to deliver an unprecedented contrast ratio of 1,000,000:1-the highest contrast level in the industry today.

This latest LCD technology delivers incomparably vivid images ideal for master monitors used in darkened areas such as in television broadcast studios, mobile broadcast vans, and motion picture production houses. This contrast ratio of 1,000,000:1 goes well beyond that of self-illuminating displays such as CRTs, plasma, and organic EL displays.

The TV broadcast infrastructure around the world is rapidly making the shift to digital format. Likewise, demand for LCD TVs, which are designed to be the primary TV set in home living rooms, is also expanding quite rapidly on a global scale. With Sharp's new Mega-Contrast LCD, higher resolution image displays such as full-spec HDTV pictures are now achievable even in homes. In addition to its brighter and clearer pictures, this latest technology provides remarkable advantage in terms of low power consumption in a thin profile.

Master monitors used in settings such as TV broadcast stations, mobile broadcast vans, and motion picture production houses are typically used in darkened spaces and, therefore, demand even higher contrast ratios. CRT-based monitors have been used so far for this application, but the remarkable improvement in the display performance of LCDs is fueling an extremely rapid increase in demand for LCDs to be used as master monitors in these settings.

Sharp's Mega-Contrast LCD developed at this time is based on an accumulation of unique "one-of-a-kind" technologies nurtured over long years of experience in the field of LCDs. This revolutionary technology achieves the industry's highest contrast ratio that delivers a wide dynamic range resulting from this unprecedented innovation. This new LCD will enable filmmakers and video producers to check video images to the most demanding levels of clarity and color reproduction.

In the future, Sharp will be working toward the evolution of LCD technology for displays designed to support the digital imaging culture of the 21st century-from home consumer televisions to video/film production monitors.

More PEP on page B4

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)
Loan No. : Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI
Description of Works: **Construction and Development of a Linear Park at Punta-Sta. Ana (Cardinal Sin Village) and a Linear Park and Revetment Wall at Parcel along Pasig River**

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for Punta-Sta. Ana URA Project: Linear/Community Park Component and Parcel Linear Park Project.
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	**Construction and Development of the Punta Sta. Ana URA Project: Linear Park Component**	**Construction and Development of the Parcel Linear Park w/ Revetment Wall**
Contract No.	URA-MLA-02B	EPA-LPP-32
Area	1,269.00 sq.m.	913.78 sq.m.
Location	Cardinal Sin Village, Punta-Sta. Ana, Manila	Parcel, Sta. Mesa, Manila
Contract Duration	150 Calendar Days	180 Calendar Days
Project Description	Construction and development of linear park/ promenade which includes the following items of work: General Requirements, Demolition Works, Site Work/Earthworks, Site Improvement, Paving/ Surfacing, Site Furniture, Electrical, Drainage and Landscaping/ Softscape	Construction and development of a revetment wall and a linear park / promenade which includes the following items of work: General Requirements, Site Work / Earthworks, Site Improvement, Paving / Surfacing, Site Furniture, Electrical and Landscaping/ Softscape

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity		Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 12,500.00		From Dec. 2 to 9, 2005	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	PRRC 2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents		From Dec. 2 to 9, 2005	9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
Site Inspection	Punta-Sta. Ana Linear Park	Dec. 14, 2005	10:00 a.m.	Punta-Sta. Ana (Cardinal Sin Village)	
	Parcel Linear Park	Dec. 15, 2005	10:00 a.m.	Parcel, Sta. Mesa Manila	
Pre-Bid Conference	Punta-Sta. Ana Linear Park	Dec. 14, 2005	2:00 p.m.	Punta-Sta. Ana (Cardinal Sin Village	Right after the Site Inspection
	Parcel Linear Park	Dec. 15, 2005	2:00 p.m.	PRRC (same address)	Right after the Site Inspection
Deadline for Submission	Punta-Sta. Ana Linear Park	Jan. 4, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 10 AM) shall not be accepted
	Parcel Linear Park	Jan. 5, 2006	10:00 a.m.		
Opening of Bids	Punta-Sta. Ana Linear Park	Jan 4, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PRRC (same address)	Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders
	Parcel Linear Park	Jan. 5, 2006	10:00 a.m.		

4. The City of Manila shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the *"Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers"* pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procedures.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-344
Email Address: prrc@tri-isys.com
Fax No. 926-52-34

(PDI - Nov 27 & Dec 4, 2005)

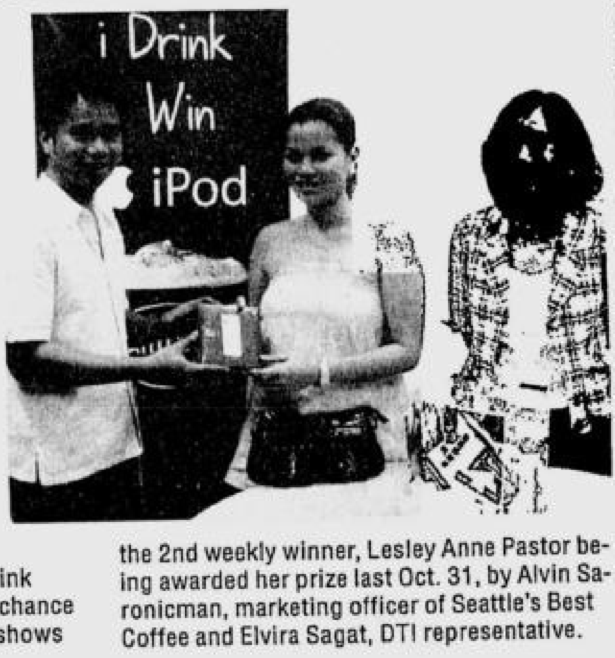
NCR BET IS SUPER QUIZ BEE MATH CHAMP

The grand finals of the 26th National Super Quiz Bee, exclusively presented by Ovaltine Power, was held Dec. 3 in grand style in the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) Hotel in Tagaytay City. 136 delegates of regional champions and teacher-coaches from all over the country vied for the honor of being National Super Quiz Bee Champion. The venue of the competition was the Development Academy in Tagaytay City. Shown is 13-year-old Marquis Alexander Tan of Xavier School, Metro Manila's bet and the math champion in the just-concluded national competition. A consistent honor student at the Xavier School, he had recently also won a medal in the Australian Mathematics competition. His mother Janette describes him as a disciplined child who trains every Saturday and even during summer for local and foreign competitions. He's a regular kid who loves to drink Ovaltine with milk and who loves to eat. His father Alex is also a Xavierian and is an architecture graduate from the University of Santo Tomas. Janette says she is glad Marquis loves to drink Ovaltine, since this drink helps promote a balanced mind and body. Ovaltine, the official drink of the National Super Quiz Bee, has Activ8 Power plus Zinc, a breakthrough combination of Mind-Enhancers and Body-Optimizers to enhance both their minds and bodies. And only Ovaltine Power meets 100-percent RDA of 8 out of 8 most essential nutrients that the Department of Health has found lacking in the Filipino child's diet. Shown with Marquis (holding his Ovaltine Gift Pack) is Quiz Bee Foundation marketing officer Ave Lacsam, Marikina-Mandaluyong champion Mark Falzado and Quiz Bee Games master Anthony Suntay.

HOUSEWIFE WINS HONDA CITY FROM HANFORD

Jennifer Mataga, a 32-year old housewife from Sampaloc, Manila is the first prize winner of a brand new car in Hanford's Honda Raffle promo. Her name was chosen from among thousands of entries coming from all-over the country in a draw held at the office of Mansfield International Inc, the manufacturer and distributor of Hanford underwears. Hurry, buy Hanford products worth P250 on or before Dec. 15 and you can be the lucky winner of another Honda City in the 2nd draw on Jan. 6. Photo shows Jennifer Mataga with their 2005 Honda City from Hanford.

SEATTLE'S BEST LOVERS NAB NANOS



They came. They drank. They won brand new iPod Nanos. Seattle's Best Coffee lovers Miwa Koiwa, Lesley Anne Pastor, Marissa Cañares and Ma. Cristina Cabantog each walked off with a brand-new iPod Nano because they joined iWin@seattle'sbest.coffee. Miwa, Lesley, Marissa and Cristina each obtained the iWin@seattle'sbest.coffee Track Cards simply by enjoying their favorite Seattle's Best Coffee flavors. They each completed their track cards with 5 stamps and instantly won premium items and were automatically made eligible to win one of 10 brand-new iPod Nanos. There are still 6 iPod Nanos up for grabs in the weekly draws, so hurry. This caffeinated offer is until Dec. 23 only. Join iWin@seattle'sbest.coffee and drink yourself straight to great prizes and a chance to win a brand new iPod Nano. Photo shows the 2nd weekly winner, Lesley Anne Pastor being awarded her prize last Oct. 31, by Alvin Saronicman, marketing officer of Seattle's Best Coffee and Elvira Sagat, DTI representative.

Davao hotels, resorts undergo massive facelift for ATF 2006

HOTELS AND RESORTS IN DAVAO CITY ARE briskly upgrading their facilities for the massive influx of participants in the forthcoming Asean Tourism Forum (ATF), which will be held here from Jan. 13 to 21 next year.

This early, 1,451 rooms in various first-class hotels and resorts in this city and the nearby Garden City of Samal have already been blocked off for ATF 2006 even as online registration for participation in this global event continues.

All the 14 official ATF 2006 hotels are refurbishing their facilities. Upgrading of The Marco Polo Davao's ballroom and function rooms has recently been completed, while a major renovation at the Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao is expected by yearend.

The Pearl Farm Beach Resort, which will be the venue of the meetings of the Asean tourism ministers and the national tourism organizations, has just completed work on a new pavilion on its Malipano Island and renovated its Samal houses to provide elegant accommodations to various government delegations. Similar face-lifting is expected in the other resorts and hotels, all eyeing a substantial share of the windfall from the ATF.

The 11 other official ATF hotels are Apo View, Grand Regal, Royal Mandaya, Paradise Island Resort, Crown Regency Residences, Grand Meng Seng, Linmarr Apartelle, Regency Inn, Casa Leticia, Lispher Inn, and Malagos Garden Resort.

Extensive preparations for the ATF are also being undertaken all over the city, including improvements in airport facilitation and reception, transport services and facilities, special (city, countryside, and island) tours, airtight security, health and safety systems, communications and protocol requirements, foreign and national media arrangements, traffic management, and various beautification projects and special events.

City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, chair of the Davao host committee (DHC), is inviting everyone to come and discover this "City in Bloom."

"Our city takes pride in being recognized as one of the cleanest and greenest in the country as well as having the second best potable water in the world," Duterte states in his message to the ATF exhibitors, travel trade buyers, and all other visitors who are poised to come from various parts of the globe.

Further beautification of this exotic and enchanting city also involves volunteers from every barangay and covers all the parks, airport, roads, and street islands, including installation of streetlights all over town, according to DHC vice chair Art Boncato.

Such efforts were hailed by Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano, saying: "It is in this remarkable display of cooperation and unity that we see a resurgence of a sense of community and mutual responsibility that ensure success in every undertaking."

Davao City has been named by Asiaweek Magazine as one of the most livable cities in Asia, and by the Asian Institute of Management as the Philippines' most competitive to do business in. The city also has three of the country's most treasured natural gems-Mount Apo, the highest peak; the Philippine Eagle, the national bird and the world's second largest eagle; and the Waling-Waling orchid, the national flower.

All these and other attractions will be showcased among Asean's best during the ATF, which will have its opening ceremony at the Davao Central Bank Convention Center, closing ceremony at The Marco Polo Davao, Travel Exchange (Travex) fair at the NCCC Exhibition Centre, and a series of conferences, business meetings and other functions in the city's first-class international hotels and resorts.

Other special events include "Friendly Games" at the Paradise Island, Mindanao Trade Expo at SM City, and Night Market at Roxas Avenue, among others.

"Indeed, we are happy to host the 2006 Asean Tourism Forum and we look forward to your arrival as Davao City beckons to be discovered," Duterte said.

The ATF is supported by the Philippine Airlines as head of the organizing body's air transportation committee, TTG Asia Media Pte Ltd as travel exchange organizer, CNN as official international cable and satellite media partner, and Travel Weekly, TTR Weekly, and TTG Asia as official trade publications.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on December 15, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 4, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS**:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (SQ.M)	LOCATION	FLOOR PRICE
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
AM-DE-282	House and Lot (TCT No. 165829)	180	L-40 B-7, Orange Drive, Goodwill 2 Subd., Brgy. BF Homes, Parañaque City	P 986,900.00
AM-CP-283	House and Lot (TCT No. 164764)	294	3290 Zapote St., Sta. Cruz, Makati City	P 4,500,000.00
AM-JA-284	Six adjoining parcels of residential lots: (TCT No. 14906, 14907, 14908, 14909, 13919 & 13920) w/ bldg. facilities & imp.	1,812	Road Lot 5, Tindalo St. & Major J. Posadas Ave. Doña Rosario Heights Subd., Sucat, Muntinlupa City	P 9,505,200.00
AM-JA-285	Five parcels of lots: (TCT No. 267596, 267597, 267598 267599) w/ bldg. & facilities	646	Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila	P 13,200,200.00
BULACAN				
AM-MR-286	House and Lot (TCT No. T-373670 (M)	40	Lot 6, Blk. 1, Grottoville Homes Subd., Brgy. Gaya-Gaya, San Jose Del Monte City	P 159,600.00
Sub-287	Residential lots (TCT Nos. T-437336; T-437337; T-437338 & T-437339)	1,477	Farm View Subd., Bo. Tungkong Mangga, San Jose del Monte City	P 3,692,500.00
CEBU				
AM-DE-288	Interior rice land (TCT No. T-61845)	1,035	Poblacion Ward 1, Minglanilla	P 290,000.00
ILIGAN				
AM-MC-289	Residential lot (TCT No. T-57,199)	1,150	Mahayhay, Iligan City	P 1,897,500.00
LAGUNA				
AM-JA-290	Industrial lot (TCT No. T-231486) w/ bldg., facilities & machinery & equipment	24,294	117 Progress Ave. corner, Industry Drive, Carmelrayville Industrial Subd., Canlubang	P 169,543,900.00
NUEVA ECIJA			Vista Amor Subd., Bangad, Cabanatuan City	
AM-PY-291	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119921)	100	Lot 20 Blk 1	P 401,600.00
AM-PY-292	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119920)	100	Lot 1 Blk 1	P 436,000.00
AM-PY-293	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119922)	100	Lot 19 Blk 1	P 418,400.00
AM-PY-294	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119918)	100	Lot 14 Blk 1	P 461,900.00
AM-PY-295	House and Lot (TCT No. T-119919)	100	Lot 28 Blk 1	P 456,900.00
AM-MC-296	Eight parcels of residential lots (TCT Nos. 26584, 26546, 265847, 265851, 265853, 265856, 265858 and 265859)	2,400	Magno Subd., Sto. Cristo San Isidro, Nueva Ecija	P 862,000.00
AM-MC-297	Agricultural land (TCT Nos. 274203 and 265109)	7,104	Sto. Cristo, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija	P 2,486,400.00
CHATTELS				
AM-ML-298	One (1) unit ACC Electric Generating Set, diesel, KA-750S, 75KVA, 220 V output, 1950 G stored at Brgy. Mamala, Sariaya, Quezon			P 47,360.00
AM-JA-299	One (1) unit Nissan Forklift stored at 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila			P 30,000.00
AM-JA-300	Seven (7) units Spiral/Hobart Mixer w/ accessories for Die & Mold Bowlfor stored at 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila			P 33,000.00
AM-JA-301	One (1) unit CNC Turret Punch Press, "AMADA" w/ 20 kw elec. Motor & accessories located at 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila			P 5,250,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566 / 893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158 / 2159 for Code starting with AM and (047) 252-3092 for SUB.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – December 3 & 4, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepEd-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for printing, packaging, delivery, storing, and retrieval of NAT 2006 (Rebid) described below:

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) per Package	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	End user
Package 1: NAT Grade 6 & Yr. IV: Printing of Test Booklets, Delivery of Test Booklets and Answer Sheets, and Retrieval of Test Booklets	P 19,300,000.00	Dec. 14, 2005 10:00 AM Venue: LCC Conference Room, 4th Floor, Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Dec. 28, 2005 10:00 AM Venue: Bulwagan Ng Karunungan, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	P 4,000.00	NETRC
Package 2: NAT Years I and II: Printing of Test Booklets, Delivery of Test Booklets and Answer Sheets, and Retrieval of Test Booklets	P 26,402,000.00				
Total	P 45,702,000.00				

Bids received that exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **December 7, 2005** upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at Telephone No. 636-6543 or Fax No. 636-6542.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA**
Assistant Secretary and Chairperson, BAC

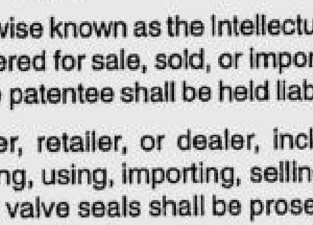
(PDI - Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

It has come to the attention of **ABRIC WORLDWIDE SDN HBD of Malaysia** ("ABRIC") that certain unauthorized persons / establishments are making, using offering for sale and / or selling counterfeit ABRIC plastic gas valve seals which are being used in illegally-refilled Petron Gasul Liquefied Petroleum Gas ("LPG") products.

Notice is hereby given to the concerned parties and to the public that genuine ABRIC ***plastic gas valve seals with tear-off groove*** are manufactured and designed by the company exclusively for use in Petron Corporation's Gasul LPG Product.

ABRIC has the exclusive right to use said industrial design in the Philippines by virtue of Certificate of Registration / Patent No. 3-2003-000443 that was issued by the Intellectual Property Office in its favor. ABRIC's Plastic Gas Valve with the Tear-of-Groove design, as it appears on a genuine Petron Gasul LPG product, is shown in the following drawings:



Under R.A. No. 8293, otherwise known as the Intellectual Property Code, anyone found to have made, used, offered for sale, sold, or imported said patented product without the authorization of the patentee shall be held liable for patent infringement.

Any importer, manufacturer, retailer, or dealer, including LPG retailers and marketeers, found to be making, using, importing, selling and / or offering for sale counterfeit ABRIC plastic gas valve seals shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Kindly report such illegal and unauthorized activities to the undersigned law firm:

LOZADA TIBLANI SOLIMAN & BANTOG LAW OFFICES
Mezzanine A, LPL Center, Leviste Street,
Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel. No. 8928849

(PDI - Dec. 4, 2005)

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos. +632 4333443; +632 926-5233/34
Telefax Nos. +632 4333444

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project : *Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)*
Loan No. : *Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI*

Description of Works:

Construction and Development of a Linear Park at Punta-Sta. Ana (Cardinal Sin Village) and a Linear Park and Revetment Wall at Parcel along Pasig River

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contracts for Community Facilities w/ site development (Contract No. EPA-RAP-CF21 and EPA-RAP-CF-22)
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Contract No.	Area (sq.m.)	Location	Contract Duration	Project Description
Package 1: Site Development and Construction of Public Markets (Sunny Brooke 1-2 and Country Meadow)	EPA-RAP-CF21	Floor Area = 681 Land Area = 1348	Sunny Brooke 1- 2 and Country Meadow Subd., Bgy. San Francisco, General Trias	180 c.d	Construction and development of Community Facilities which includes the following items of work: construction of temporary facilities; earthworks; civil works; steel works; architectural works,. tinsmitry; sanitary/plumbing works, site development and electrical works
Package 2: Site Development and Construction of 2 Units of Two-Storey School Buildings (Sunny Brooke 3)	EPA-RAP-CF22	Floor Area = 647 Land Area = 6528	Sunny Brooke 3 Subd., Bgy. San Francisco, General Trias	210 c.d	Construction and development of Community Facilities which includes the following items of work: construction of temporary facilities; earthworks; civil works; steel works; architectural works,. tinsmitry; sanitary/plumbing works, site development and electrical works

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 12,500.00/ package	Dec. 4-11 2005	8:00AM to 5:00 PM	PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents.	Dec. 4-11, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
Site Inspection	Dec. 15, 2005	10:00 AM	Sunny Brooke 1-3 and Country Meadow Subds., Bgy. San Francisco, Gen. Trias, Cavite	
Pre-Bid Conference	Dec. 16, 2005	10:00 AM	PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	
Deadline for Submission	Jan. 9, 2006	10:00 AM	PRRC, 2F, MWSS, Eng'g. Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105	Late bids shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	Jan. 9, 2006	10:30 AM		Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders.

4. LGU-Gen. Trias shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check / Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the "*Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers*" pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures.
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **Bingle H. B. Gutierrez**
Executive Director, PRRC

(Sgd.) **Luis A. Ferrer IV**
Municipal Mayor, Gen. Trias

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444, 433-3447 and 926-5234
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(PDI – Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

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SALE OF PNB SHARES TO SMALL LOCAL INVESTORS

Pursuant to Republic Acts No. 7181, 7661 and 7886 (Privatization Laws), the Joint Technical Committee, duly constituted by the Department of Finance and the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (collectively "Government"), hereby announces the sale to Small Local Investors (SLIs) of at least 20,670,435 Government-owned shares in Philippine National Bank (PNB) under the following terms, and the Terms and Conditions stated in the Application Form:

Available Purchase Lot : **100 to a maximum of 2,200 shares (in multiples of 100 shares)**
Price per share : **P43.77 (pursuant to RA 7886)**
Offer Period : **13 December 2005 to 15 February 2006**
Eligible Investors : **OFWs, private & government employees, small farmers/fisherfolks cooperatives, pension, retirement, provident and other similar funds**

Deadline for submission of Application Forms: 15 February 2006 at 12:00 noon

Application forms and information sheet are available at the following offices/websites:

Department of Finance
Mr. Eric Dural
Privatization Office
Tel. No.: (02) 524-1633
www.dof.gov.ph

Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.
Ms. Rossana V. Castalla
Risk Assessment & Resolution Dept. 4
Tel. No.: (02) 841-4265 to 73
www.pdic.gov.ph

Selected PNB Branches:

Metro Manila
Ms. Elizabeth S. Javier
PNB Financial Center
Macapagal Blvd. Pasay City
Tel. 526-3247; 573-4452

Ms. Perla P. Jocson
Cubao Branch
Aurora Blvd. Cubao, Q.C.
Tel. 911-2915 to 19

Bleslida S. Reyes
Ali Mall Branch
P. Tuazon, Cubao, Q.C.
Tel. 912-1655

Northern Luzon
Mr. Efren B. Dumaual
Dagupan Branch
AB Fernandez Ave. Dag.
Tel. (075) 522-8746/ 515-6018/515-5242

Visayas
Mr. Manuel C. Grafilo
Cebu Branch
Cor. Jakosalem & MC Briones Sts. Cebu City
Tel. (032) 253-8537/ 255-6410 / 255-1704

Southern Luzon
Ms. Elizabeth D. Duyan
Lucena Branch
Quezon Ave., Lucena City
Tel. (042) 710-3703/ 710-2060 / 710-3972

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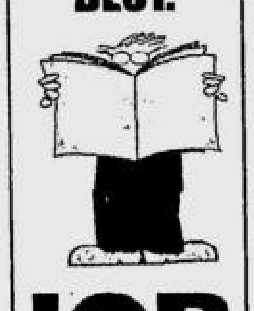

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LOT

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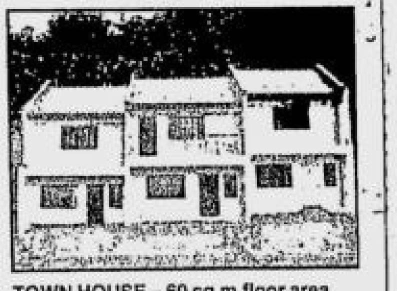

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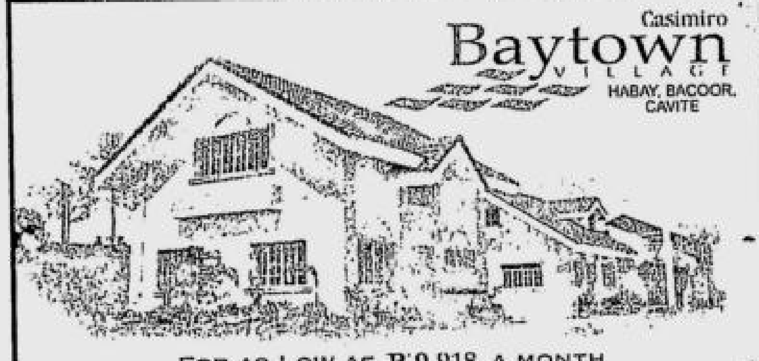

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

COVERBOY BAR
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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that extrajudicial settlement of estate of the late MANUEL L. GUATLO with waiver of shares per Doc 192, Page 39, Book III, series of 2005 before notary public Atty. Jess Anthony Q. Yu of Makati City (PDI-Dec. 4, 11, & 18 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of spouses Tranquilina Opulencia and Miguel Parabuac registered owners of Lot 6 Pcs-27556 covered by TCT No. 136831 of the Registry of Deeds for the Calamba Branch have executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement of TCT No. 136831 per Doc.#2, Page #1, Book #IX, Series of 2005 before Notary Public Atty. Rufino Opulencia of Manila (PDI-Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 2005)

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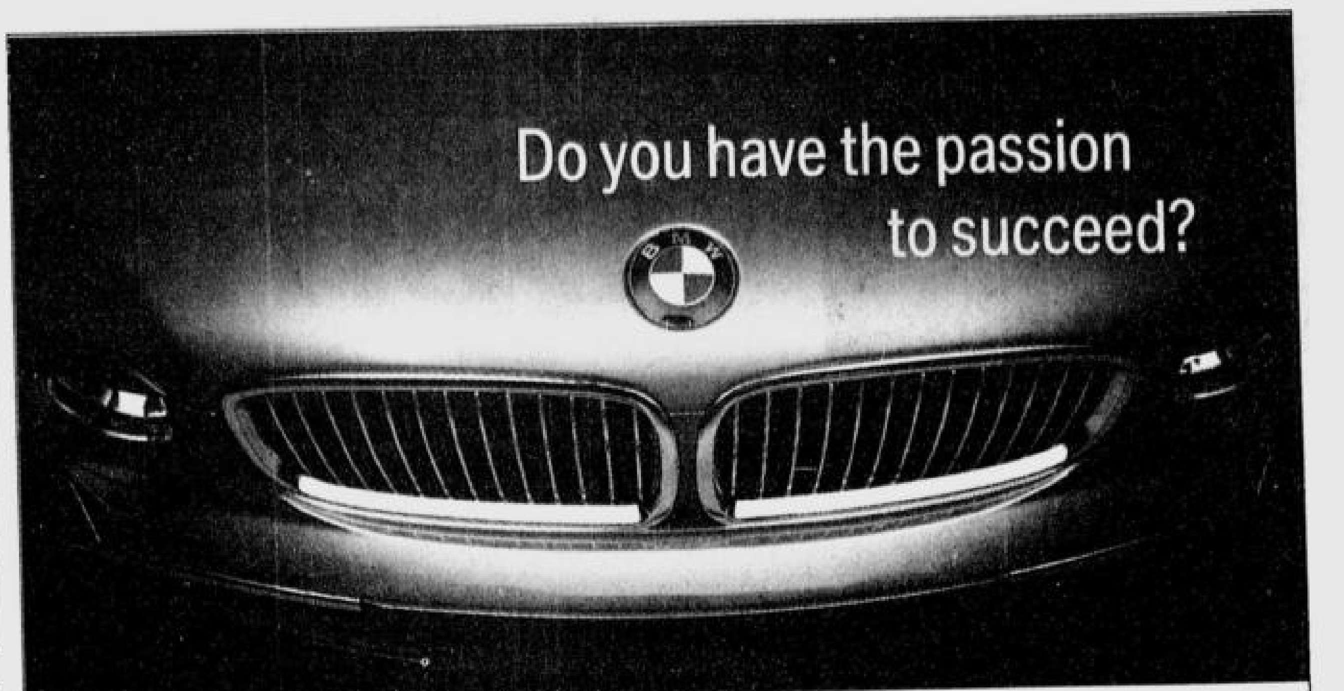

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ENJOY UP TO 70% PROFIT!!!

Certified by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)
National Consumer's Quality and People's Choice Awardee
Recognized by our National and Local Government Officials

Come in business attire and attend our **FREE BUSINESS ORIENTATION** at
Suite 602 OMM-CITRA BLDG., San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City (Back of SM Megamall Bldg.)
This Week Only, December 4 - 11, 2005. 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 nn, 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm,& 6:00 pm

HURRY!!!
GIVE YOUR FAMILY THE MOST AMAZING CHRISTMAS GIFT EVER!!!
Your Christmas Bonus can START this Business NOW!!!

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project

Name of Project Location	Procurement of Security Services various pumping stations, reservoirs, main office, collection units and other facilities of the BWD.
Approved Budget for the Contract Contract Duration	P 46.90 per hour/guard one (1) year renewable upon mutual agreement of the parties

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass-fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 12 to 16, 2005
2. Pre-Bid Conference	December 21, 2005
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility	January 2 to 6, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) to the BWD Cashier.

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MA. LUISA C. TENEDERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

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HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38 845-2440

OBITUARIES

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Our Dearly Beloved *Tatay*

IRENEO "NEONG" AGOJO Sr.

(Batang Cale)

Peacefully joined our Creator on December 02, 2005 at the age of 92.

Hs is survived by his wife **VIRGINIA ALONZO PEREZ**
Children **ERLINDA** & **Antonio Cornico** †
IRENEO JR. & **Nelia Masongsong**
REYNALDO & **Helen Villarino**
ESTRELLITA
ROBERTO & **Angelita Banzuela**
MANOLO & **Norma Raño**
MILAGROS †

Brothers **MAURICIO, EDUARDO** and sister **NAZARIA**
Grandchildren and great grandchildren

His body lies in state at Chapel 1, St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, Magallanes Village, Makati City. Interment will be on Wednesday, December 07, 2005 at the Eternal Gardens in Lipa City, Batangas after the 8:00 am Mass at Magallanes Chapel and the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the St. John Evangelist Parish Church, Tanauan City, Batangas.

We request the pious readers to remember him in their prayers.

In Loving Memory of

DAKILA F. CASTRO

on the 15th anniversary of his death
on December 4, 1990

Holy Masses will be offered at the following:

1.	**St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Susana Parish** *Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City*	6:30 AM	12/04/05
2.	**St. James the Great Parish** *Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City*	10:00 AM	12/04/05
3.	**Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish** *Merville Park Subd., Parañaque City*	6:00 PM	12/04/05
4.	**St. Peter the Apostle Parish** *Burol II, Balagtas, Bulacan*	7:00 AM	12/04/05
5.	**Manila Memorial Park** *Sucat, Parañaque City*	3:00 PM	12/04/05

The family requests relatives and friends to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

Ercelle Lontoc Reyes

of Jolo, Sulu
Passed away last 30 November 2005 at 2:50 a.m.
in Vancouver, Canada

Cely

Her bereaved family, husband **Nanding**; children **Ned** and **Marivic**, **Astrid** and **Larry**, **Cindy** and **Wataru**, **Giselle** and **Richie**; grandchildren, siblings **Rose** and **Rem**, **Mely** and **Tom** (†), **Fred** and **Barb**, **Clarissa**, **Ging** and **Michel**; nephews and nieces request the pious reader to pray for the repose of her soul.

A mass will be held for her on Saturday, 10 December 2005 at the Mary Immaculate Chapel in Camp Aguinaldo, EDSA, Quezon City at 4 p.m.

"...absent
from
the body
to be
present
with the
Lord."

— 2 Corinthians 5:8

THE COLUMBARY GARDEN VAULTS
Visayas Ave., Q.C., San Agustin Seminary
Good Price & Good Location...
Carol 09178491952 / 723-2975 (office hours)
4 Urns in 1 Vault

Celia De Venecia Cruz

of Dagupan City and Marikina City

Peacefully died in the Grace of our Lord
on December 2, 2005 at the age of 76.

Her beloved husband **Naning**; children **Raquel** & **Ernie**, **Helen** & **Jegi**, **Odeng** & **Fidel**, **Baby** & **Sol**, **Cris** & **Ray**, **Jun** & **Mariel**, **Vic** & **Lalie** and **Peter** & **Jill**; grandchildren; brothers **Nick** and **Eddie** & sister **Lita** request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

Interment will be on December 5, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

Please omit flowers

Message of Thanks

We, **Cynthia** and **Dada**, children of the late

ROBERT S. TAYENGCO, Sr.

who joined his Creator on October 25, 2005 wish to sincerely thank all who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, spent precious time with us, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE :	897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO :	912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)
MAKATI :	892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW :	528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL :	635-0219; 635-0220

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that Mr. Jonjon G. Esguerra whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **Philippine Beverage Partners Inc.** (a subsidiary of Coca-Cola Bottlers Inc.) effective February 22, 2005.

Any transaction entered into or made through him for the Company after the above date shall not be honored.

(PDI-Dec. 4, 2005)

More employment opportunities in today's JOB MARKET

JOB Market
Part 1
Where You Find The Best
INQUIRER

INVITATION

BURGER MACHINE hereby invites investors to apply as franchise in its Pampanga Area.

Interested parties who desire to have license to operate Burger Machine service outlets within the aforementioned territory may mail their applications & letter of intent to the Business Development Group, Office of the VP, Burger Machine Holdings Corp., 807 EDSA, Diliman, Q.C.

BURGER MACHINE reserves the right to review the qualifications to all selected investors, subject to technical, financial and production criteria, to waive any formality therein and accept such applications as maybe considered most advantageous to the Franchiser.

INVITATION TO BID

Bank will foreclose & auction the following

Property located at:
along M. Santillan St. Barangay Arnaiz (Pio del Pilar) North, Makati City *(land only)*

Description:
Lot Area : 329 sq.m.
within commercial / residential area

For particulars, Please call 811-5807 to 14
Look for Gee/Cirila/Dannie

(PDI-Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **Ms. Joy V. Ragasa** is no longer connected with **NET SHIP MANAGEMENT, INC.**

Any transaction entered by her in behalf of the company shall not be honored.

This is as per POEA requirement.

NET SHIP MANAGEMENT INC.

(PDI--Dec. 4, 2005)

INVITATION TO BID

Bank will foreclose & auction the following

Property located at:
No. 31 Balagtas-Bustos Provincial Rd. Sitio Mataas na Sampaloc, Barangay Bulihan, Plaridel, Bulacan

Description:
Lot Area : 1) 2,268 sqm 2) 2,268 sqm
Improvements : 2,886 sqm (aggregate)
1) Production Bldg. – one (1) storey bldg.
2) Canteen/Maintenance – one (1) storey bldg.
3) Building 3 – two (2) storey bldg.
4) Guard house/barracks – two (2) storey bldg.

For particulars, Please call 811-5807 to 14
Look for Gee/Cirila/Dannie

(PDI-Nov. 20 & 27 & Dec. 4, 2005)

PPO Christmas concert moved at the Harbor Square

ENJOY THE SPIRIT OF THE YULETIDE SEASON AND watch a free concert by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) dubbed as Christmas Romance, on Dec 9, 8 p.m. at the Harbor Square (beside the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Building). Guest soloists are noted Australian harpist Marshall McGuire and Filipino flutist Enrique Barcelo. Acclaimed American conductor Mark Allen McCoy leads the PPO.

The program includes Rimsky-Korsakov's Suite, Christmas Eve, Castelnuovo-Tedesco's Concertino for Harp and Chamber Orchestra, op. 93, Mozart's Concert for Flute and Harp, K. 299, Henderson's A Canadian Brass Christmas and Tchaikovsky's "Valse Finale et Aptheose" from The Nutcracker.

Lauded by critics as a conductor with "broad, sweeping gestures typical of the old Central European tradition," Mark Allen McCoy is a three-time recipient of a Peabody Career Development Grant and was awarded the Harold Randolph Prize for Outstanding Musicianship and Performance in 1995. He is Music Director/Conductor of the Loudoun Symphony Orchestra and Director of Orchestras at Towson University, Maryland.

Born in Melbourne, Australia, harpist Marshall McGuire was the principal harpist with the Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra and was a member of the ELISION ensemble since 1988, and lecturer in harp at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music since 1990. He is the Founding President of the New Music Network, a member of the Australian Youth Orchestra Artistic Advisory Committee, and Music Director of the AYO's National Music Camp 2006.

Hailed as "nothing less than virtuosic," Enrique Barcelo is the PPO's principal flutist. He has been the principal flutist of the Manila Symphony Orchestra and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra. He is a flute professor at the National Arts Center in Makiling, UST Conservatory of Music and the UP College of Music. He served as department chair of the Woodwinds and Percussion Department of the UP College of Music for a number of years. For more information, call the PPO Office at 832-1125 loc. 1608-1609 or visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

INTEGRATED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

The **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)** is pleased to invite applicants to the following programs under its Integrated Traineeship Program for Year 2006:

- **Cadetship Program** – six (6) months on-the-job training intended for graduates of *Electrical and Electronics & Communication Engineering Courses.*
- **Apprenticeship Program** – six (6) months on-the-job training intended for graduates of Technical/Vocational Courses (i.e. Electrical Engineering Technology, Industrial Technology, Electronics Technician, Computer Technician, Aircraft Mechanic, etc.)

The above programs aim to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electrical power transmission.

Qualification Requirements:

- Not more than twenty five (25) years old;
- No failing grades in **major subjects;**
  (Please bring original Transcript of Records)
- **Apprenticeship Program** – must pass the TransCo Mental Ability, Aptitude and Personality (MAAP) Test
- **Cadetship Program** – must pass the Transco MAAP Test and the Technical Examination formulated by the designated Board of Examiners.

Only applicants who meet the first two (2) requirements may personally apply on **December 5-16, 2005** and **January 5-13, 2006 (1:30 PM to 4:30 PM** *only***)** at the following **TransCo Offices:**

➢ **Residents of Metro Manila:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
Human Resource Training Division Human Resources Department G/F, TransCo Main Building, Power Center Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City	(02) 981-2139 to 40

➢ **Residents of South Luzon:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna	(049) 981-4576
District 1 – Batangas / Cavite Mahabang Parang, Batangas City	(043) 300-3591 (043) 300-3592
District 2 – Laguna / Quezon Barangay Real, Calamba City	(049) 545-1915 (049) 834-0158
District 3 – Bicol Area Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay	(052) 824-1102/07 (052) 824-7974

➢ **Residents of North Luzon:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Pennsylvania Avenue, Poro Point San Fernando City, La Union	(072) 888-0837 (072) 888-0839
District 1 – Ilocos Area Bauang Substation, Barangay Pottot, Bauang, La Union	(072) 242-1178 (072) 242-1174
District 2 – Mt. Province Area Beckel Substation, La Trinidad, Benguet	(074) 444-7425 (074) 444-7423
District 3 – North Central Plain Area San Manuel Substation, San Manuel, Pangasinan	(075) 565-3260 (075) 656-3267/ 3268
District 4 – Cagayan Valley Area Santiago Substation, Barangay Rizal, Santiago City, Isabela	(078) 682-8406 (078) 682-8408
District 5 – West Central Plain Area Hermosa Substation, Barangay Balsik, Hermosa, Bataan	(045) 971-6698 (045) 971-6780
District 6 – South Central Plain Area Mexico Substation, Barangay San Jose Matulid, Mexico, Pampanga	(045) 966-0436 (045) 966-0440
District 7 – Northern Tagalog Area San Jose Substation, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	(044) 691-3330

➢ **Residents of Visayas:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City	(032) 343-9815/ 9816
District 1 – Panay Area Zone III, Bo. Obrero, Ilo-ilo City	(033) 336-1489 (033) 337-8023
District 3 – Leyte-Samar Area Barangay Milagro, Ormoc City	(053) 561-0140
District 4 – Negros Area Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City	(034) 435-4418 (034) 708-6988

➢ **Residents of Mindanao:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Ma. Cristina, Iligan City	(063) 223-6612/ 6613
District 1 – Northwestern Mindanao Area Rizal Avenue, San Pedro, Pagadian City	(062) 214-1856 (062) 214-1671
District 2 – Lanao Area Overton, Fuentes, Iligan City	(063) 221-6136 (063) 221-6133 (063) 221-6134
District 3 – Northcentral Mindanao Area Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City	(088) 227-23716 (088) 227-23744 (088-858-6047
District 4 – Northeastern Mindanao Area J.C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City	(085) 815-2178 (085) 342-8293 (085) 225-2147
District 5 – Southeastern Mindanao Area 3rd Floor, D&G Bldg., corner Yellowline & Sampaguita Mintal, Davao City	(082) 293-0208 (082) 293-0599 (082) 293-0205
District 6 – Southwestern Mindanao Area Calumpang, General Santos City	(083) 553-2819 (083) 552-3269

For applicants to the **Cadetship Program**, only those who passed the MAAP examination are qualified to take the **technical examination** scheduled on **January 28, 2006** for **Luzon** and **February 3, 2006** for **Visayas and Mindanao.**

The on-the-job training starts on March 7, 2006.

(PDI–Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
BICOL UNIVERSITY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Legazpi City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BICOL UNIVERSITY through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of the Project : Provision of Security Services for Bicol University
Location : Bicol University, Legazpi City
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 6,019,200.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last TWO (2) YEARS with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligbility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	DEC. 1, 2005
2. Pre-Bid Conference	DEC. 7, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	DEC. 19, 2005
Bid Evaluation	DEC. 19, 2005
4. Post-qualification	DEC. 21, 2005
5. Notice of Award	DEC. 28, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of SIX THOUSAND PESOS (P 6,000.00) to the BICOL UNIVERSITY Cashier.

The BICOL UNIVERSITY assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid. The BICOL UNIVERSITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **DR. CELIA S. VEGA**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS AND CLEAN-UP" BASIS

DATE OF BIDDING : **December 14, 2005**, 2:00 PM, Solarium, Ground Floor, Bldg.-1, NPC Head Office, Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Diliman, Quezon City.

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding for the sale of the following:

ITEM	DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION	MIN. BID PRICE
	SCHEDULE I	
1	One (1) lot of Unserviceable, Used, Junk and Discarded Items consisting of Scrap Metals, Guy Wires (9-reels and loose bundles), Air-Con units, junk motor vehicles, Automotive Parts, T/L hardware, empty gas cylinders, used pipes, sole-plates, steel windows, steel skid, and discarded General Plant and Office Equipment. Located at Amlan TransCo Substation, Brgy. Tandayag, Amlan Town, Negros Oriental Province.	P 270,000.00 Per Lot
2	One (1) lot of Unserviceable, Used, and Scrap Items like Over-Head Ground wires, empty reels, empty drums, transmission line materials and Substation hardware, Junk General Plant and Office Equipment, engines and roofing materials. Located at Daraga TransCo Substation, Daraga Town, Albay Province.	P 495,000.00 Per Lot
	SCHEDULE II	
1	One (1) lot of Unserviceable Chemicals: Barite (Barium Sulfate), 8,010 bags (100 lbs/bag). Stored at Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant Complex, Tiwi, Albay Province	P 456,364.30 Per Lot

The official bid forms will be issued to all interested parties upon presentation of a valid Identification Card with picture (such as Company ID, Driver's License, Passport, etc.), valid Income Tax Return (latest) of the bidder, Tax Clearance Certificate of the bidder (BIR Form 17.14B) valid up to the date of public bidding and payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Fifty Pesos (P550.00) for each set of Bid Form/Schedule. Deadline for issuance of the bid forms is until 4:30 p.m. of December 13, 2005.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH AND/OR MANAGER'S/ CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL PRICE OFFER.
2. 2004 INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER, ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED COPY.
3. VALID TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER (BIR FORM 17.14B).

For further inquiries, interested parties may see or call Mr. ALFONSO D. ALDAY, Manager, WITAD Division at MMD, NPC Head Office, Quezon Avenue Corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City, with telephone number 924-5384.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(Sgd.) **FELIX B. TACATA, JR.**
OIC, MMD

(PDI - Dec. 2, 3 & 4, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS

The assets being offered on an **"as-is, where-is"** basis, at the Indicative Prices presented below. Sealed offers shall be received at 3:00 p.m. on the following schedules at PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Description	Indicative Price (In Philippine Currency)	Date of Submission Of Offers
1995 Suzuki Vitara - Plate No. SFD 908 white wagon, 4 cylinder gasoline engine, 4-speed manual transmission, complete with spare tire, tools and accesories	190,000	December 13, 2005
1995 Nissan Vannette - Plate No. SFD 788 red wide body, 4 cylinder gas engine, 5-speed manual, complete with spare tire, tools and accessories	130,000	December 13, 2005
1987 Nissan Sentra - Plate No. SCH 990 blue 4 door sedan 4 cylinder gas engine, 5-speed transmission, complete with spare tire, tools and accessories	45,000	December 13, 2005
Prime White Cement Corp. Land (425 sq.m., TCT No. N-268228) with improvements located at No. 95 East Maya Drive, Philam Homes Subd., Quezon City	7,437,000	December 15, 2005

Interested parties may secure the Sale Documents from the PMO Marketing Department at non-refundable fees of P200.00 for each vehicle and P500.00 for Prime White. A Gate Pass shall be issued to interested parties upon request.

Interested parties are advised to deal directly with the PMO Marketing Department.

For more information, please call Ms. Melinda B. Cortez and Ms. Hazel S. Mamuad of the PMO Marketing Department at telephone nos. 892-2145 or 818-4733 or 818-8305

(PDI – December 3, 4 & 5, 2005)

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Suyo, Dingras, Ilocos Norte, PHILIPPINES 2913
Tel. No. (077) 784-75-46 & 47; 784-71-26 & ☎ Fax No. (077) 784-7125

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FOR BIDS

The Ilocos Norte Electric Cooperative, Inc. has applied for a loan from the National Electrification Administration for the procurement of brand new, 7620/240 volts copper to copper windings distribution transformers for its system loss reduction program.

The items to be procured are:

20 units 15 KVA; 20 units 25 KVA; 16 units 37.5 KVA; 15 units 50 KVA and 5 units 75 KVA. The delivery time shall be within 30 days from notice of award.

The approved total budget is P3,848,000.00. Any bid that is over and above the approved budget per item will automatically be rejected.

Interested suppliers may obtain their pre-qualification forms and bid documents from the INEC main office starting December 5 until December 14, 2005.

Pre-qualification documents must be received by this office not later than December 16, 2005. Only those pre-qualified shall be invited to bid for the project.

INEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defect or informality, assume no obligation whatsoever of indemnity to the bidders any expense or loss that the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to INEC.

(Sgd.) **RENATO A. BALINTEC, PEE**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – December 3 & 4, 2005)

National Irrigation Administration
Region 13

Standard Form Number: SF-INFR-05
Revised on: July 29, 2004

Contract Reference Number
Name of Contract
Location of the COntract

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract : Construction of 1 Unit Diversion Dam
Location : La Paz, Agusan del Sur
Brief Description : Construction of 1 Unit Diversion Dam
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P 12,244,980.00
Contract Duration : 180 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Dec. 6 – 20, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Dec. 7 – 20, 2005
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Dec. 12 – 20, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Dec. 14 – 20, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	Dec. 21, 2005 – Jan. 17, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	Jan. 5, 2006 at 1:00 P.M.
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Jan. 17, 2006 at 1:00 P.M.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at NIA-Region 13, Bancasi, Butuan City, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P 500.00 (fee for Eligibility Form) to the NIA's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements IN 3 sets (1 original duly marked and 2 duly certified and marked photocopies) to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 5,000.00 (fee for Bidding Documents) to the NIA Cashier.

The NIA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate of indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **RAFAEL A. ALAS, JR.**
BAC Chairman

Noted:
(Sgd.) **DEMOCRATICO P. GRANA, JR. CESO V**
Regional Manager

(PDI - Nov. 28 & Dec. 4, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Capitol, Oroquieta City, Telefax-088-531-1593

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder machinery, described as follows:

Name of Machinery

4 units Farm Tractor-Brand New, Four Wheel Drive

Engine	78-80 Hp @ 2500 rpm, 4 cylinder natural aspirated diesel fuel engine, 3908 cc displacement, water-cooled cooling system
Transmission	Full synchromesh 12 Forward, 04 Reverse (12x4)
Steering	Hydrostatic Power steering
Linkage	Category II, 3500-3565 lifting capacity
PTO	Independent 540 economy rpm, 64-66 Hp Output power @ 623 rpm
Tire Size	Front-13.6x24, Rear-16.9x34
Safety Feature	Roll-Over Protective Structure (ROPS)
Std. Accessories	Canopy, Suspension Seat, Front Bumper Weights, Rear Wheel Weights, 3pt. Linkage, Swinging Drawbar, Toolbox, Set of Tools & Operators Manual.
4 units-Dic Plow	4 pcs. of 26" diameter disc blades (Local)
4 units-Trailer Harrow:	Wheeled type, 18 pcs. of 24" diameter disc blades, complete of hydraulic cylinder and hoses. (Local)
2 units-Trailer	3-5 tons capacity, dumping type, complete of hydraulic cylinder & hoses, single or double wheel tires. (Local)
2 units-Moldboard	3 bottoms, rigid steel tabular main frame. Effective depth of cut not less than 35 cm. width cut 112 cm., 3 pt. Category VII. (Local)
2 units-Shakearator	(Subsoiler) 1.5 has/day capacity, adjustable shank spacing, deep soil loosener with unique shattering action, power take-off driven. (Local)

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) : P10,000,000.00
Delivery Period : Seven (7) Calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected.

Application for eligibility to bid must be received on or before December 12, 2005.

The Bidding Document shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Capitol Annex Building, Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental, starting December 16, 2005.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at Telefax No. 088-531-1593.

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Pre-Bid Conference	December 12, 2005
2. Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 26, 2005, 10:00 A.M.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to the Provincial Treasurer, Province of Misamis Occidental.

The Provincial Government of Misamis Occidental – BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at anytime prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **CEZARITO N.J. CHIONG**
Chairman

(PDI – Dec. 4 & 11, 2005)

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PNOC
The Energy Company

Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, 1200 Taguig City, Philippines
P.O. Box 2102 MCPO. Tel. Nos. 893-6001 to 47/893-1320 Fax No. 840-1575

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Engagement of Coil Tubing Services for Acidizing and Gas Lifting Operations in Northern Negros Geothermal Project for 2006

EDC 05-199

JBIC Loan PHP-P176

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) *has received* a *Loan* from the *Japan Bank for International Cooperation* toward the cost of *Engagement of Coil Tubing Services for Acidizing and Gas Lifting Operations in Northern Negros Geothermal Project for 2006 (EDC 05-199)*, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this *loan* to payments under the contract for *Engagement of Coil Tubing Services for Acidizing and Gas Lifting Operations in Northern Negros Geothermal Project for 2006 (EDC 05-199).*
2. PNOC-Energy Development Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the project.* Delivery of the GOODS is required in 2006. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through national competitive bidding procedures specified in the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's local competitive bidding procedures and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in *"Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans"*
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from *PNOC-Energy Development Corporation* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below from *November 24, 2005 to January 12, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.* and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Five Thousand Pesos (PhP 5,000.00).* The method of payment *in securing the bidding documents* will be *cash.* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The *PNOC-Energy Development Corporation* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *10:00 a.m. of December 12, 2005* at *the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.*
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *2:00 p.m. (Contracts Admin. Group Office Wall Clock Time) of January 12, 2006.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount as stated in the Instructions to Bidders. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be immediately after the deadline of submission of bids *the BAC Conference Room, First Floor, Building V, PNOC-EDC, Energy Compound, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The *PNOC-Energy Development Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation
c/o the Bids and Awards Committee
Building V, Energy Compound, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Metro Manila
(632) 893-6001
cag@energy.com.ph
(632) 840-1461
www.energy.com.ph

(Sgd.) **FRANCIS M. DOLOR**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Dec. 4, 2005)

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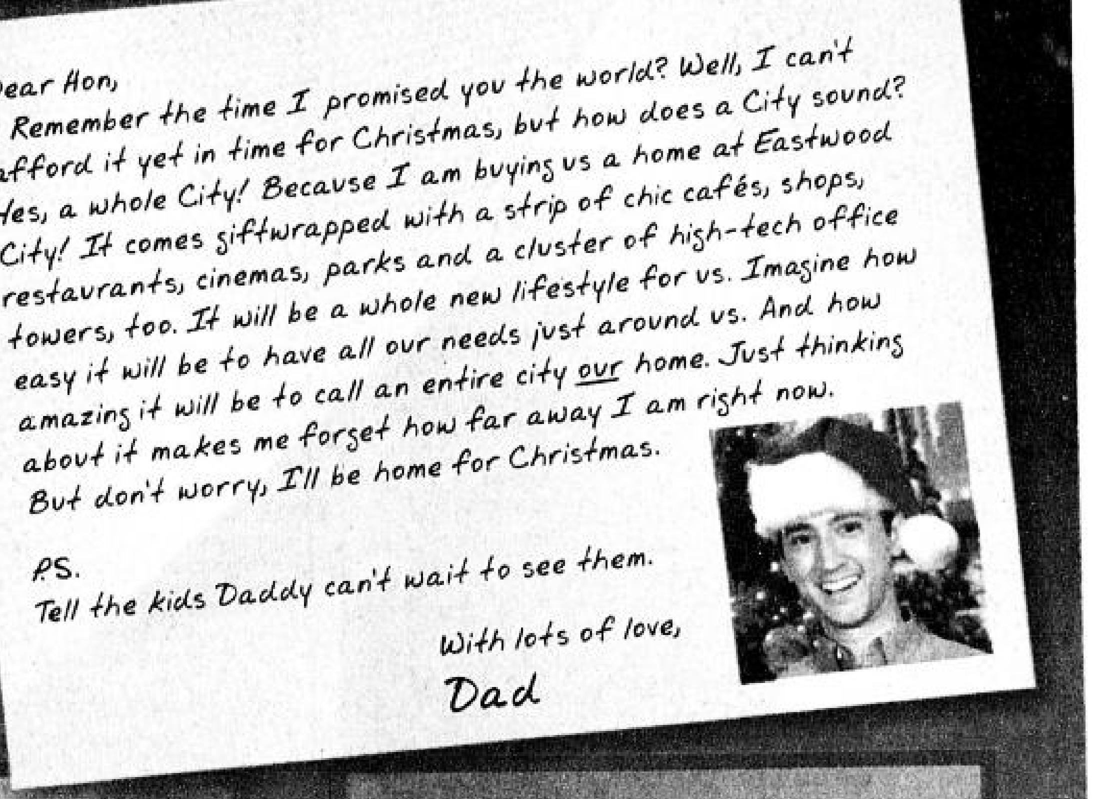
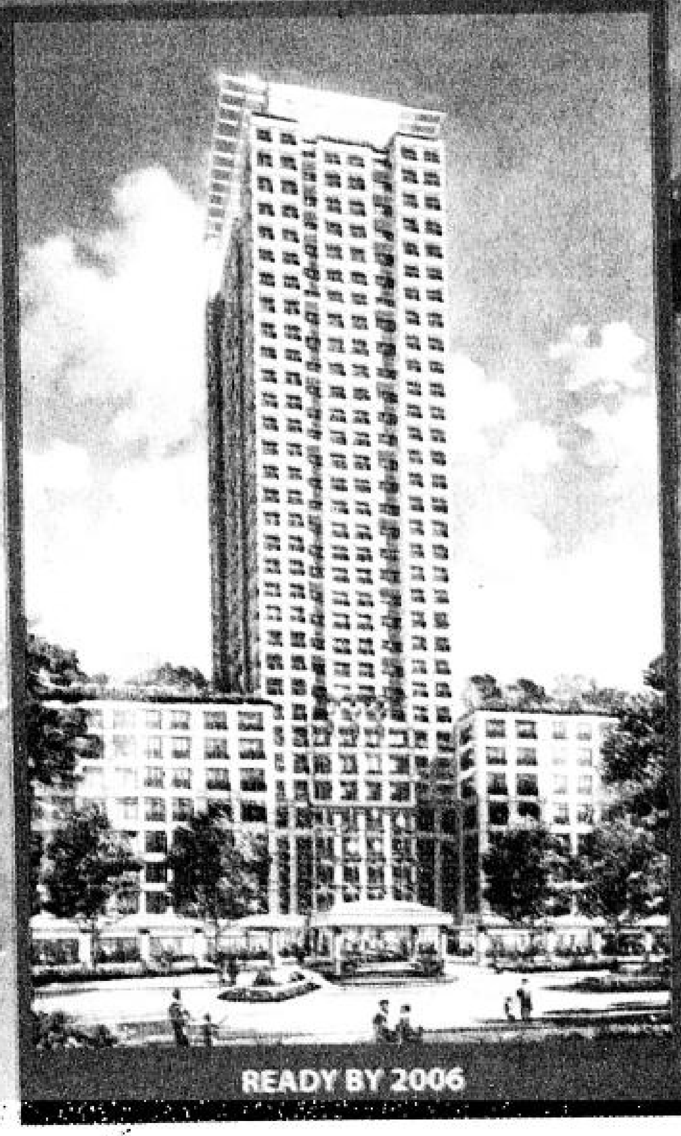


Dear Hon,

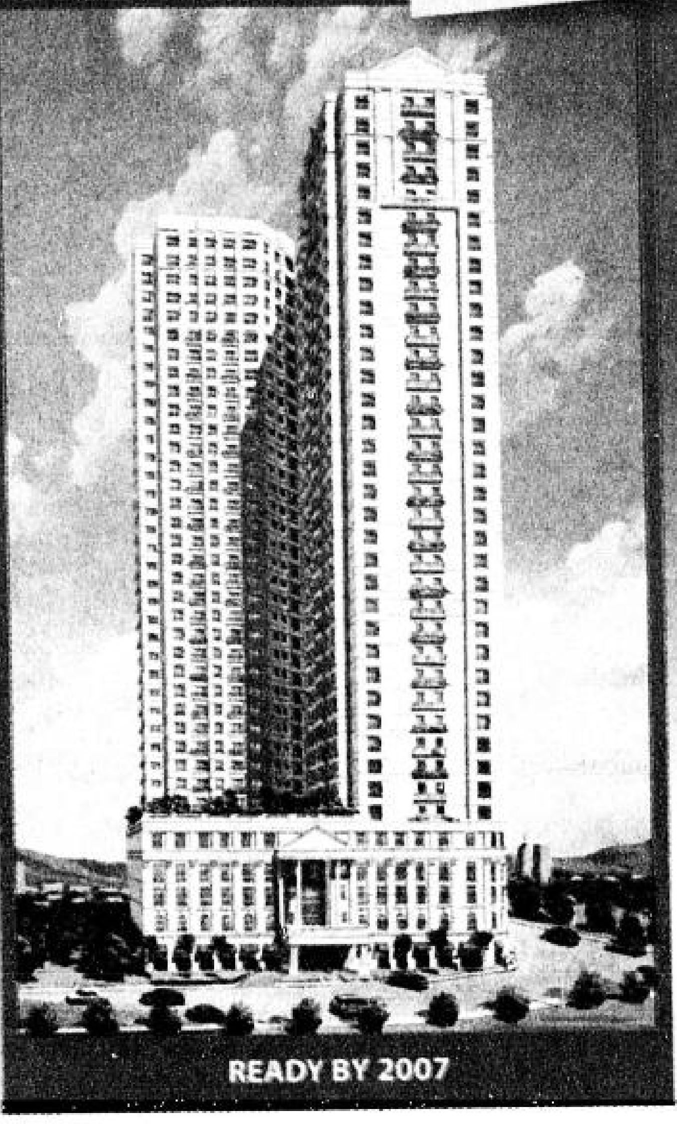
Remember the time I promised you the world? Well, I can't afford it yet in time for Christmas, but how does a City sound? Yes, a whole City! Because I am buying us a home at Eastwood City! It comes giftwrapped with a strip of chic cafés, shops, restaurants, cinemas, parks and a cluster of high-tech office towers, too. It will be a whole new lifestyle for us. Imagine how easy it will be to have all our needs just around us. And how amazing it will be to call an entire city our home. Just thinking about it makes me forget how far away I am right now. But don't worry, I'll be home for Christmas.

P.S.
Tell the kids Daddy can't wait to see them.

With lots of love,
Dad



READY BY 2006



READY BY 2007

READY BY 2009

One Orchard Road

Contemporary homes ranging from cozy executive studios to lavish three-bedroom suites in three towers. With an array of deluxe amenities such as an indoor spa and sauna, tropical gardens at the 6th floor podium deck and a commercial arcade at the ground level.

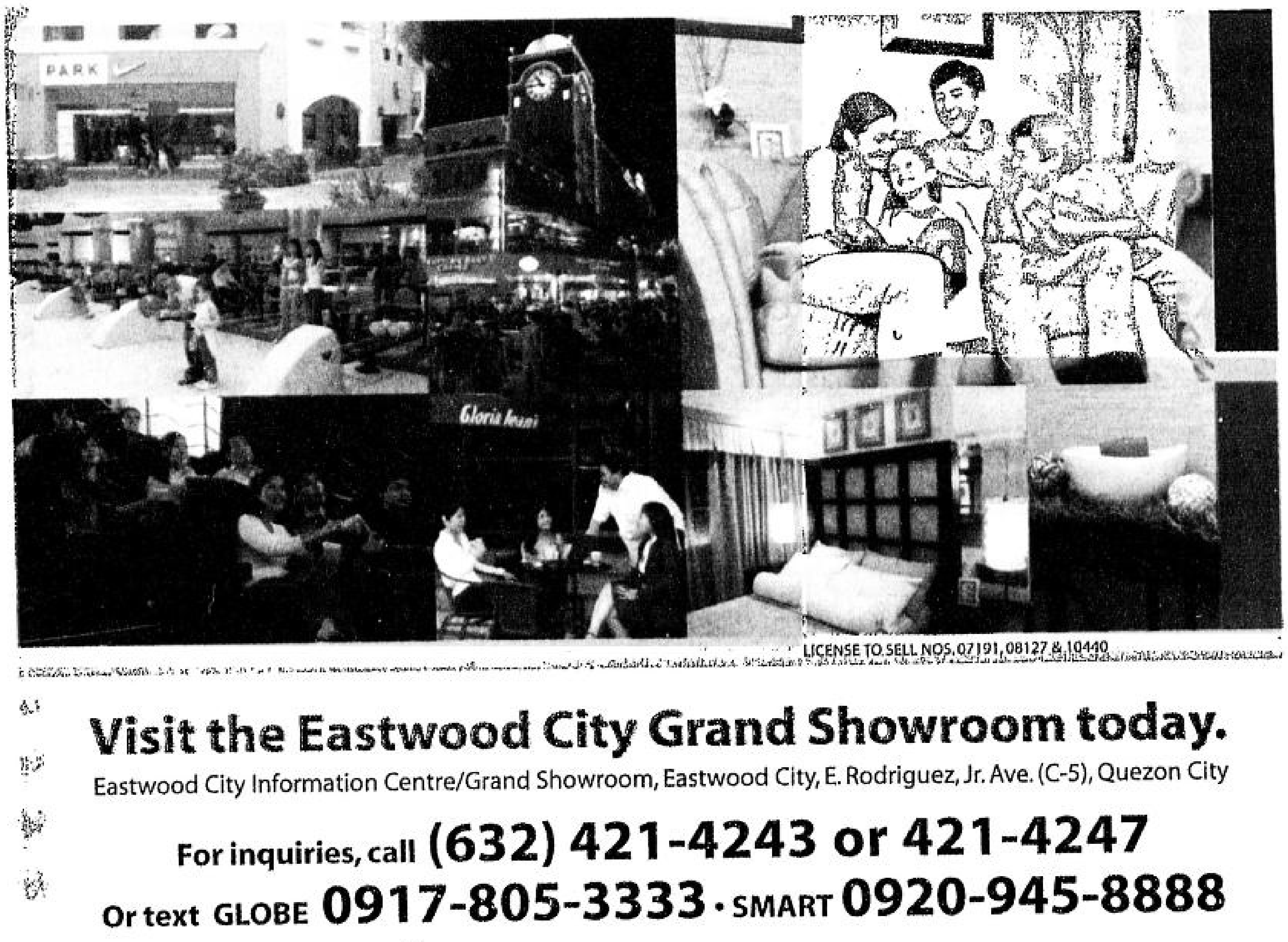
THE GRAND EASTWOOD PALAZZO

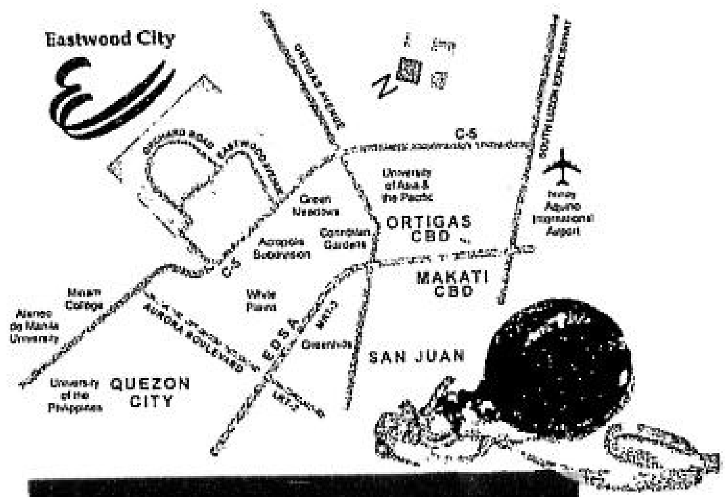
Enjoy royal privileges in a European-inspired executive studio or one- to four-bedroom residence. Sit back and unwind at the library/lounge area. Or luxuriate in a slew of resort-style leisure amenities at the 6th floor play deck: Roman-inspired pool, sunbathing lounges, poolside cabana, gazebo spa, children's play area and landscaped gardens.

One Central Park

Luxury Residences at Eastwood City

Live atop a four-story mall with boutiques, restaurants, cinemas and gaming arcades in an executive studio or one- to three-bedroom suite. Just an elevator ride away from the 5th floor play deck and an outdoor landscaped park with a lagoon.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2005 C1
Sunday LIFESTYLE

Travel /E
Home /G
Weddings /H

Text your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

LYDIA VELASCO

BEYOND THOSE [illegible] WORDS

More about life than style

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

ON PAGE SIX OF THE INQUIRER's maiden issue as a daily newspaper, Maurice Arcache wrote about a "*tres* exciting" fashion show where he spotted "Manila's social heavyweights, lightweights and no-weights," as well as the "moneyed Carnival Beauty Queens of yesteryears." After a listing of around 28 boldfaced names, he promised to tell "more about the smashing affair sooner than soon."

The column was called "The Good Life" and it appeared in the Movies, TV & Culture section, along with a scoop on a movie production company, a calendar of events, two comic strips and the horoscope. The one and only ad, which was for a restaurant, took up the bottom three inches or so of the page. Chato Garcellano edited the section.

Nearly 20 years later, Maurice is still name-dropping in the INQUIRER. The column is now called "Without Batting an Eyelash," and it comes out in a section now known as Lifestyle. Which is not to say that our *palangga* has stayed faithful to this paper all these years. Maurice had in fact moved with his social pictorials from one broadsheet to another until two years ago when, in a lapse of judgment (love that phrase!), he offended his publisher at the time and got the pink slip (or maybe it was fiery red?).

And so now every Tuesday and Friday when Maurice chronicles the doings of the well fed and the well off, Lifestyle goes to town with superlatives. Lucky for him, if there's one section of the newspaper where adjectives are allowed, it is in Lifestyle. It is terribly hard not to indulge in adjectives when you're writing about art, theater, books, food, fashion, beauty, homes, and travel. And let's not forget pastimes like malling because malls are among our top advertisers.

Hard news, soft news

None of these is hard news, of course, which is why some people have taken to referring to the contents of our section as fluff, froth and frippery—you know, all those "F" words synonymous to an extreme lightness of being.

Hmm, let's see now... Writing about crime without punishment (GMA cheated and she's still sitting there) is hard news and writing about women fighting to get a room where prisoners can stretch and see sunlight is soft news. Writing about men who beat up women is hard news and writing about men in toques who concoct dreamy desserts is soft news. Writing about horrendous conditions in a sweatshop is hard news and writing about weaving fabulous fabrics from *piña* is soft news. In all honesty, which would you rather start your day with?

Years of reinventing the women's pages into what is now the Lifestyle section have addressed the interests of all kinds of readers, including men. So while traditional content like fashion, food, family (those "F" words again!), gardens, weddings, advice columns, etc. are still its staple, Lifestyle has been reoriented to absorb other features that would have otherwise remained homeless, such as

MORE/ C2

A RECENT Friday section for the fashionistas

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A brand new Toyota Vios plus P20,000 worth of gas

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GMA

Watch and Win!
Manuod ng Lagot Ka! every Monday or send PLAY to 232 at sagutin ang question of the day and get a chance to win P50,000!

SMART

LYDIA VELASCO

BEYOND THOSE [illegible] WORDS

More about life than style

From page C1

stories on wellness, values, education and the environment.

Lifestyle is poised for more focused coverage and we are staking our claim on being the newspaper that feeds the mind and fills the eyes by coming out soon with quarterlies on home, travel, education, books and other topics ripe for wider coverage (utterly shameless plug: call our advertising department for placements).

Sunday to Friday

Lifestyle comes out daily except Saturdays. Our Monday pages cover the visual arts, design, books, theater, cultural affairs, and other artistic and literary pursuits. Reviews are uncompromising, whether they be by Gibbs Cadiz of theater productions or by Constantino Tejero of art exhibits.

By adding a dash of nutrition to food, a helping of herbs to massage and a dollop of seaweed to grooming, we come out with a Fitness subsection every Tuesday. Wellness is given pause by columns and features that downplay the medical and talk up body toning, meditation and prevention to make health an easier pill to swallow.

Basking in with abandon

Every Wednesday, we look more closely at the 16-24 age bracket. While they are big on animé and texting, they also want to change the world. Coming out with a subsection for the young that is filled with nothing but fun stories just won't do, so Pam Pastor makes sure our youth version delivers the punch in terms of issues that affect them. 2bU! isn't one of those yuppie readings that you sit and scan as the world passes you by. It requires involvement.

Delicious job

We happen to have the most delicious job in the paper. We get to write about food, whether in private kitchen or restaurant setting. Our Thursday subsection acquired its peerless taste from the writings of Doreen Fernandez, who reigned supreme as food writer in this country until her death in 2002. Lucky for us, chef Reggie Aspiras and foodie Michaela Fenix have proven to be of Grand Cru quality as food columnists. Vangie Baga-Reyes presents recipes in easy-to-understand, step-by-step photo format.

National treasure

Friday has taken on a new air of sophistication since we put together a crack team of fashion insiders to create a pop bible for fashionistas. Our fashion and beauty subsections also source the best products and services in town for our readers. Never afraid to rock the boat, Lifestyle is unparalleled in its local fashion reviews, which have been written provocatively, persuasively and with integrity by Alex Vergara and Cheche Moral.

There's so much mediocre writing these days so we take great pride in counting Gilda Cordero Fernando among our regular contributors. She writes about the stuff that people actually care about in her essays that usually come out on Sundays.

Turned off by the broadcast media's supersized coverage of Rico Yan's sudden death, we asked Lito Zulueta to write a protest essay and the resulting piece, "Pornography of Grief," elicited a lot of reader feedback that supported our indignation.

On Sundays, the Travel subsection uses words and pictures to tell delightful stories and convey useful information about places far and near, as well as efforts to protect the environment. We also feature the weddings not just of the rich and famous but also of ordinary couples. The Home section visits homes and gardens that hopefully would inspire readers to create better living conditions for themselves and their families.

Usually the biggest section of the paper, Sunday Lifestyle allows us to come up with more extensive coverage of people, places and events.

Fun, inspiring

"Playtime" focuses on the personal journey of one person, whether celebrated or notorious, although sometimes the subject is a group with a common cause. The give-and-take between the Lifestyle staff on the one hand and the interviewee on the other always results in a fun, often inspiring read. Among our most memorable subjects were New Age guru Deepak Chopra, US-based fictionist Jessica Hagedorn, film director Gil Portes, comedian Dolphy, composer Ryan Cayabyab and national treasure Socorro Ramos, founder of National Book Store.

By noon of the Sunday our Playtime with the 2002 UAAP basketball champions Ateneo Blue Eagles appeared, we had received feedback of over 100 text messages. Just goes to show that readers like to see other people fulfilling their dreams.

Talent can take many forms so we've asked people who are highly regarded in their respective fields for a turn as guest editor of a subsection in the Sunday Lifestyle. Our first guest editor was designer Inno Sotto, who wowed our readers with his take on, of course, fashion. Surely and calmly, Jon Rufino put together a section on healthy living. Floral designer Rachy Cuna had fun presenting Christmas and Easter issues to our readers. Lizzie Zobel and Margarita Delgado advocated reading in their guest issue.

The ravishing interpretation of the Seven Deadly Sins in fashion photography by Jun de Leon as well as the other issues lovingly put together by our other guest editors too many to mention here have engaged our readers with quite a range of visual and textual surprises.

"Lifestyle goes to..." is another Sunday special feature, but its focus is on a destination. You can visit a town or a city and totally miss what makes it a piece of paradise. We've been as far south as Cagayan de Oro, west as Palawan, east as Nueva Ecija and north as Ilocos Sur.

Grace, grief

For the most part, we've been in places full of grace. We've walked around the Luxor temple in Egypt, dramatically lit by moonlight and shadowed by the gods, then sailed along the biblically important river Nile. In San Marco, in Venice, dinner in the balcony of a hotel with a view of the canal, the gondolas and the shimmering city lights turned magical when the piazza became awash with water from the rising tide. Scaling the Great Wall of China was another monumentally moving experience.

Around Christmas or Easter, the Lifestyle staff used to visit children with cancer, ask them for their wishes and put them in touch with readers who could make those wishes come true. Then we would take a smaller number of kids on an outing for lunch and shopping, in cooperation with SM, Cabalen, Astoria Plaza and Ballet Manila.

The first year we did that, two of our cancer children passed away shortly after our outing. In subsequent years, there were other kids who failed to lick their cancers. Hearing about their deaths brought each of us an unbelievable degree of sadness for which no length of time or breadth of experience in newspapering could have prepared us.

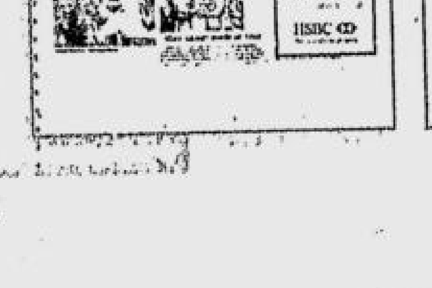
And that's how we've been in places full of grief, too. It won't be easy but we plan to revisit more of such places in these pages. That's because when you're 20, as this paper is, you are old enough to roll up your sleeves and try to help ease the misery around you. Froth and frippery can fool you into thinking that Lifestyle is more about "style" than "life" but, at 20, you know with more certainty that it should be the other way around.

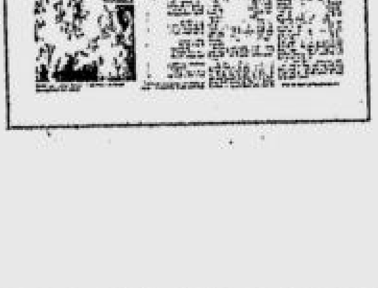
"FEELING winter" in their Terranova wardrobe—except section editor Chelo Banal-Formoso (center, in Debenhams)—are (first row) Allison Lopez, Nastasha Verayo, Pam Pastor, Irene Perez, Fran Katigbak and Cheche Moral; (second row) Constantino Tejero, Linda Bolido, Alex Vergara, Gibbs Cadiz, Ruth Navarra, Anne Jambora, Vangie Baga-Reyes and Belle Bondoc.

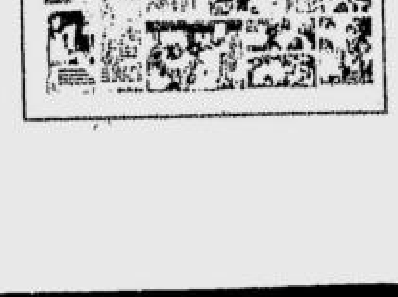
PHOTO BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN; MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA, JIGS MAYUGA AND YZA PALMERO OF SHU UEMURA

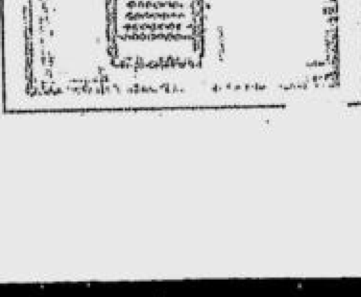
'Dirty Tricks' Revealed
MOVIES, TV & CULTURE
DAILY HOROSCOPE
And the winner is...
Datebook
Galing-Galing
THEN... Maurice Arcache writes of "the good life" in the Dec. 9, 1985, maiden issue of the INQUIRER

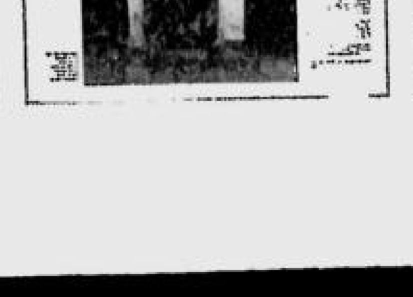
LIFESTYLE
Best of two countries in one gala event
AND NOW... he fills a full page with society doings without batting an eyelash











Sunday LIFESTYLE
Out of Manila and into Africa

HOLIDAY dressing. After black, purple reigns!

Bea Valdes in Vogue. . .

From page C4

son Cooper 360°."

Anderson burst into people's consciousness with his emotional coverage of the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. According to CNN's press release on him and the show, "He does not shy away from strong opinions, provocative stories and challenging issues. Regular features include Anderson's take on the world of media and the news, with in-depth coverage of justice, politics, health and pop culture, all from contributors who are as engaged, and engaging, as Anderson."

Anderson happens to be the son of socialite/fashion designer Gloria Vanderbilt. He graduated from Yale University with a degree in political science. In 1995 he signed on with ABC News, making him the youngest correspondent of the network at 28.

In People magazine's annual search for "the Sexiest Men Alive 2005" Anderson falls under the "Why we love smart guys" section. He has the silver-gray hair and baby blue eyes that make him visually appealing.

With the untimely death of Peter Jennings and the retirement of Dan Rather and Ted Koppel, Anderson represents the new breed of TV news anchors and talking heads who are not afraid to show their feelings, who seem to be more approachable and real and possess that important element: heart.

You can catch him every day on CNN, 11 a.m.

MUST-WATCH MOVIE. The Broadway musical "Rent," soon to be in movie theaters

HP recommends Windows® XP Professional.

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- Intel® 915P Chipset
- 1024MB DDR2 Memory
- 160GB Serial ATA hard drive at 7200RPM
- Lightscribe Double Layer (8.5GB) 16X DVD±RW/±R Drive
- Integrated Intel® High Definition Audio, 7.1 Surround Sound Ready
- 9-in-1 Digital Media Reader
- ITU V.90 K56 flex modem
- Integrated 10/100 BaseT network interface (Broadband Ready)
- Wireless 802.11 a/b/g
- nVidia GeForce 6600 3D PCI-Express Graphics with TV-out port and DVI capabilities (256MB DDR video memory)
- TV Tuner Card with FM Radio
- HP Multimedia Cordless keyboard with one-touch Internet Command Center
- HP Cordless, optical scroller mouse
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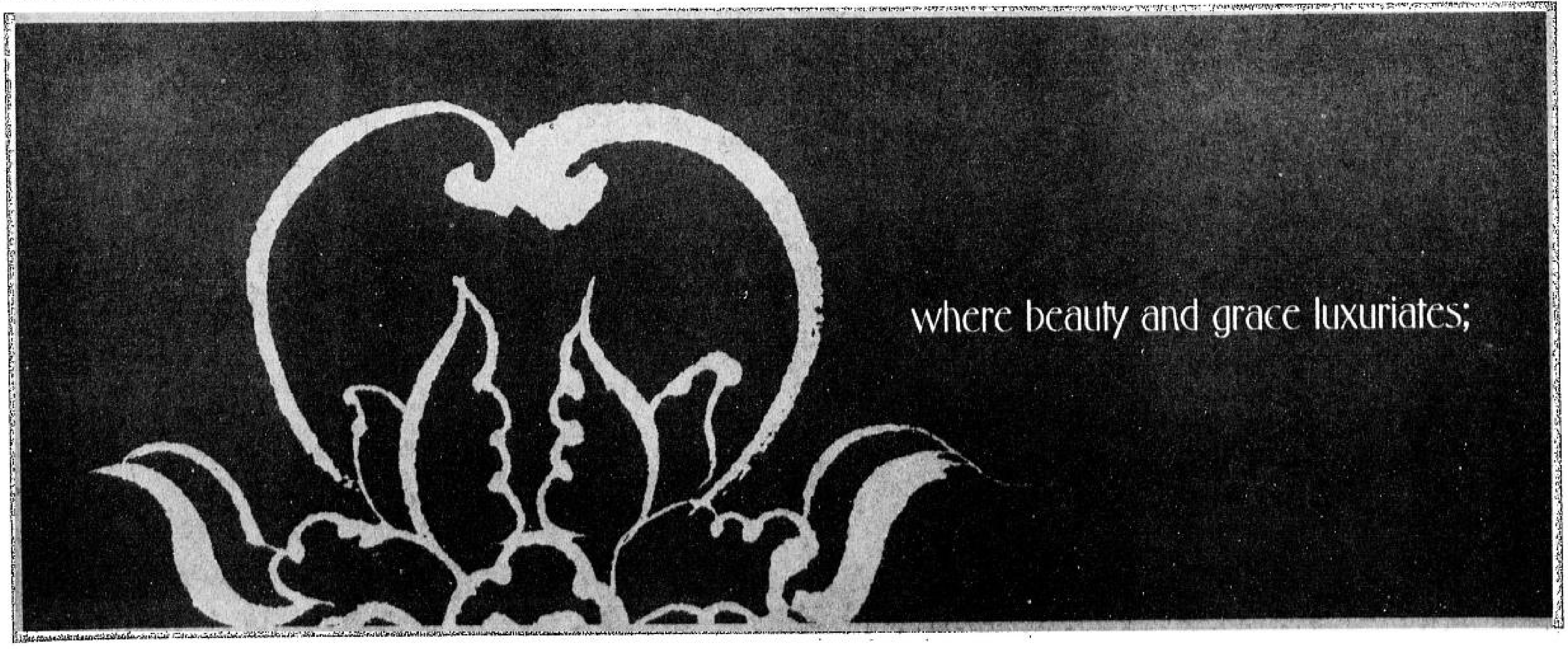
where beauty and grace luxuriates;

Bea Valdes in Vogue—again!

The stylish bag and jewelry designer once again makes it to the pages of the world's fashion bible

BEA VALDES—Second time's the charm. After coming out in Vogue magazine early in 2005, stylish bag designer Bea Valdes adds another feather to her cap by appearing again in the December issue of Vogue magazine,

Not content with selling her one-of-a-kind bags, Bea has gone a step further and is now designing jewelry. According to Vogue, "Bea Valdes, the Filipino designer who just six months ago debuted a collection of dazzling stone-encrusted evening bags... has applied her elegantly Surrealist touch to jewelry."

Bea, who is the granddaughter of the late great jeweler Fe Panlilio, is following in her grandmother's footsteps.

"My family's legacy lies in fine jewelry, and I hope to one day earn that privilege soon," she says.

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T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

Soon may be just the word. With backing from America's fashion bible, that hope is already here. And further news from Blue Carreon who now works in HK Tatler: Bea's bags are doing very well and was recently featured in the South China Morning Post Magazine.

According to Zarina Yeh who heads Harvey Nichols in HK, out of the 16 bags she bought from Bea, there's only one left, and the store is now selling her necklaces, too.

To Bea, we are truly proud of you and congratulations once again!

Must-wear for the holidays

Everyone is getting ready for the holidays. Just check out the traffic and long lines at Rustan's.

Here are a few trends and tips to help you turn into a fashion plate instead of a fashion turkey this season.

If you are looking for an alternative to the hot color black, then purple is it—from tops to cocktail dresses and evening gowns. For accessories, go for a major statement with big, bold, cocktail rings and huge or oversize necklaces.

As the nights become colder, say goodbye to those overworn pashmina eye sores and go back to silk scarves, plain or embroidered. They are definitely more elegant and not as common. For evening wear, despite what the political-economic situation is, it's high time to start feeling glamorous, so go for embroidered, shiny or beaded jackets, gowns and dresses.

Movies to watch out for

The last part of the year always brings the best movies—as they say, "*pang*-Oscar." Here are a few of TNT's picks that you should not miss!

"Memoirs of a Geisha" boasts an all-Asian main cast, the first Hollywood film to do so. It stars Ken Watanabe ("The Last Samurai") Ziyi Zhang and Michelle Yeoh, both of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" fame. The film is an adaptation of the best-selling novel of the same title.

"Syriana" has George Clooney, Amanda Peet and Matt Damon. A political thriller focusing on intrigues in the global oil industry, it also talks about the corruption and avarice of governments (sounds familiar?). Definitely the most timely movie this season!

"Pride and Prejudice." If you love period films, you can't miss this one. Adapted from Jane Austen's classic novel, the film stars Keira Knightly ("Pirates of the Caribbean").

A GLITTERING Bea Valdes creation

"Munich." Steven Spielberg is back with this thriller, about the 1972 Olympics where 11 Israeli athletes were taken hostage by a Palestinian terrorist group.

"Brokeback Mountain." An epic love story about gay cowboys? Is there such a thing? Ang Lee directs this film that stars Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger.

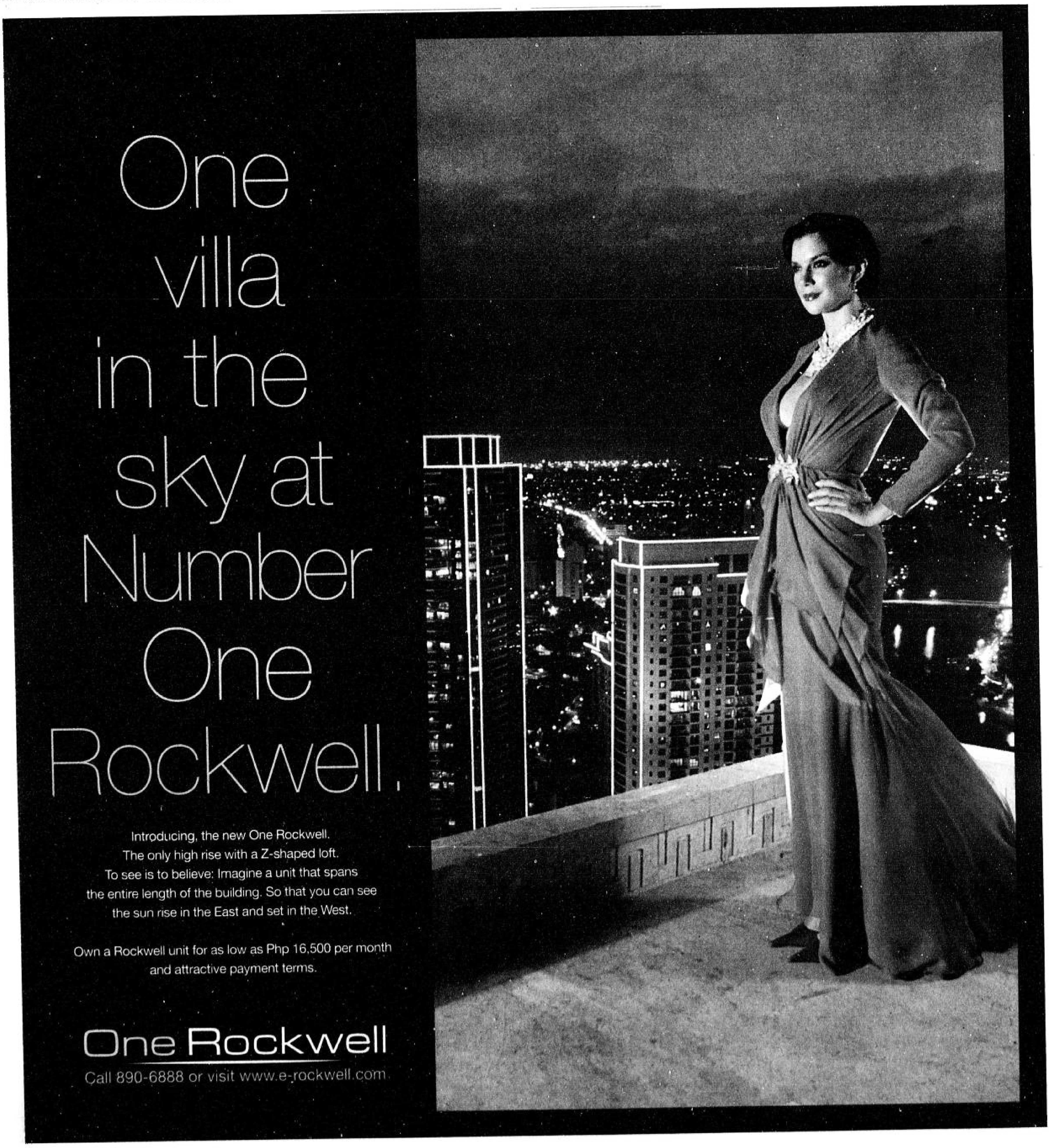
Lastly, there's the much-awaited musical "Rent," Broadway's rock opera about starving bohemians and artists living in New York. Stars Rosario Dawson and Taye Diggs.

Opinionated host

Who is Anderson Cooper? He hosts CNN's news show, "Ander-

BEA/ C3

ONE of People magazine's sexiest men in 2005, news anchor Anderson Cooper



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ADORABLE OFW (as in Overseas Filipino Winner) Julia Abueva delights Jaime Zobel of the Ayala Corporation and Virgie Ramos of Gift Gate (inset) with her songs at the launch of Globe & Gift Gate 3G Express in Glorietta 2. The promo runs until Dec. 11.

'Flight' triples the thrill for holiday shoppers

AN OVERSEAS Filipino warmed the hearts of guests at the first-class blast-off last Friday of the Globe & Gift Gate 3G Express at Glorietta 2 mall at the Ayala Center in Makati City.

Singapore-based Julia Abueva is only nine years old but she entertains like a pro. Singing "I'll Be Home for Christmas," she directed a naughty wink at Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos when she changed the words "snow and mistletoe and presents on the tree" to "snow and mistletoe and presents from Gift Gate."

Julia's Christmas carols served as final call for all guests aboard the star-studded simulated flight to showcase Gift Gate's 2005 holiday gift collection and Globe's innovative mobile products and services.

The very 3-D, future-forward, aerospace-inspired promo is ongoing until Dec. 11. Entrance is free for Globe and TM (the new and improved Touch Mobile) subscribers. Nonsubscribers can share the 3G Express experience by buying Globe and TM SIM cards on the spot.

As a Christmas bonus for all Globe and TM users, subscribers who download the event wallpaper, logo or text card may avail of a 20-percent discount when they buy Gift Gate products featured in the suites.

In the Control Room, which provides an interactive demonstration of 3G, the latest mobile communications breakthrough that allows video calls, enhanced streaming and high-speed web browsing, subscribers can have their photos taken for free in the cockpit. They can also avail of gift items from Globe, Benetton, Segue, Sanrio and Swatch Bijoux, free with certain Globe purchases and new mobile subscriptions.

The Vault showcases stunning items from the Hello Kitty jewelry and accessory collection. Globe Platinum members and Globe Kababayan subscribers get the red carpet treatment as dedicated sales staff attend to their shopping needs.

Globe's youth brand GenTxt and Swatch team up for the Zero Gravity suite, where subscribers are treated to an out-of-this-world anti-gravity experience. GenTxt and Platinum members as well as Kababayan subscribers may also avail of a 30-percent discount on the day's featured Swatch.

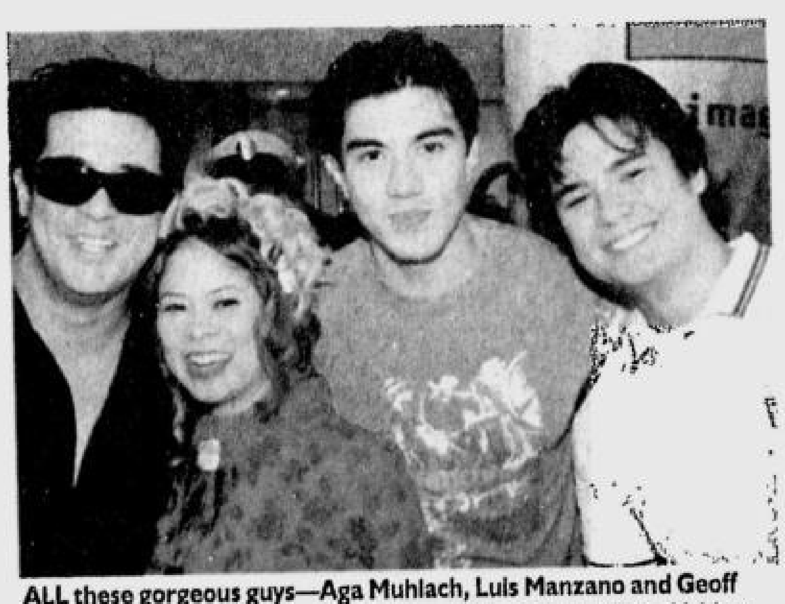
Globe Girlfriend members can strut down the Walk of Fame and make like supermodels with accessories from partner brands like Benetton, Segue and Sisley. Early birds can get their photos taken and printed for free to commemorate their fashionista moment.

There is also a 3G Express café, where more free items from Gift Gate await Overseas Filipino Workers who are Globe Kababayan subscribers. They can also avail of free IDD calls and learn more about the high-speed surfing web capabilities of Globelines Broadband.

FIRST CLASS. Madame Noriko Yamazaki, Italian Ambassador Rubens Ana Fedele, Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Virgie Ramos and Bea Zobel

PURE PLEASURE. A star-struck Julia poses with Gary V and daughter Kiana and asks Alvin Patrimonio to sign her Hello Kitty pillow.

AYALA LAND's Fernando Zobel with National Book Store's Socorro Ramos



ALL these gorgeous guys—Aga Muhlach, Luis Manzano and Geoff Eigenmann—in one flight and lucky party host Tessa Prieto-Valdez

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Talon 5, Las Piñas City
Stub No. 3543996

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Basak Mambaling,
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SM CITY MARILAO
Salome S. Ramos
Marilao, Bulacan
Stub No. 1916675

SM CITY SUCAT
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San Dionisio,
Parañaque City
Stub No. 3658543

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
Joselito P. Manapat
Mendez, Cavite
Stub No. 1542232

SM MEGAMALL
Maria Angela Chua
Cubao, Quezon City
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1828 Series of 2005

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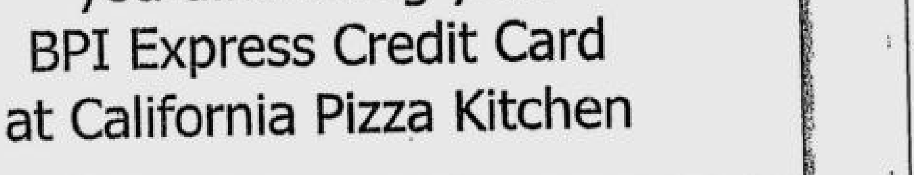

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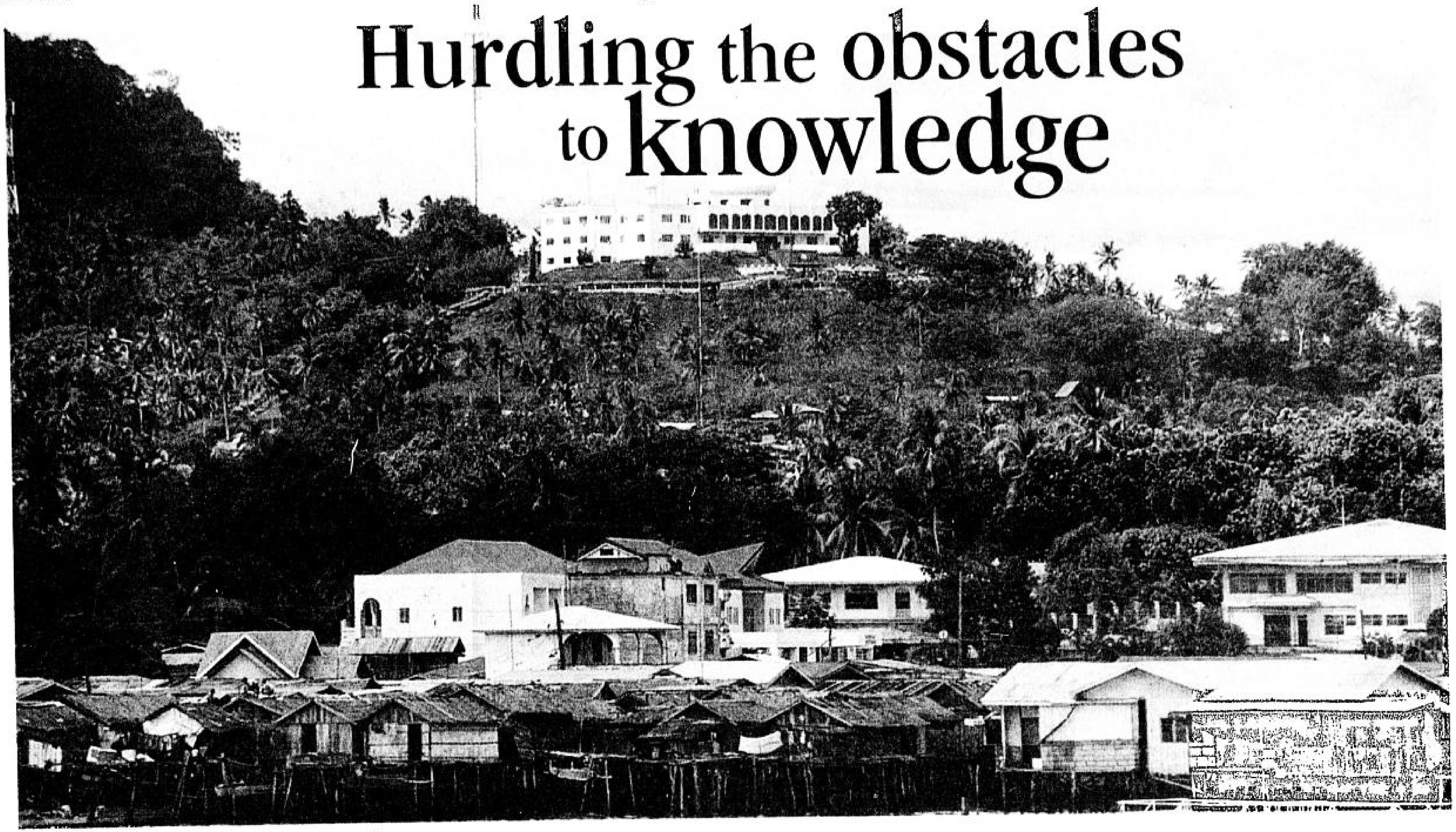
Hurdling the obstacles to knowledge



TAWI TAWI provincial capitol overlooking a Badjao village

Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Mandy Navasero

"AIN'T NO MOUNTAIN HIGH enough,/no river wide enough,/no valley low enough," Rina Lopez-Bautista quoted the 1970s Motown anthem in her remarks at the launch of Television Education for the Advancement of Muslim Mindanao (TEAMM) on the island of Languyan in Tawi Tawi.

It sounded incongruous and anachronistic, even flippant, considering what the visitors had to go through to reach the island from the capital town of Bongao (four hours by Navy patrol ship, or 45 minutes by speedboat through choppy water in the open sea).

But Bautista, president and executive director of Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc. (KCFI), was only articulating her aspiration to have education accessible to all in this country. As the KCFI executive summary says: "Poor quality of basic public education perpetuates poverty among Filipino families. It is a root cause of the Philippines' underdevelopment."

> In these areas, the problem of basic education reaches crisis proportion

Clearly, addressing this crisis should be a top priority of the government. But, obviously, we can't rely on government to solve it on its own, especially these days when the Ship of State barely keeps afloat in a sea of crisis upon crisis and scandal upon scandal.

Knowledge Channel (KCh) is Bautista's baby. A Psychology graduate from De La Salle University, she was purchasing manager for SkyCable and managing director for Skymall until she started on her own.

"I had to make use of the infrastructure we had in SkyCable," she explains how she came upon the idea of KCh. "And education was something that was needed."

Launched in 1999, KCh is chaired by her father, Oscar Lopez. It now airs 22 curriculum and non-curriculum programs, reaching 58 provinces throughout the archipelago.

Neglected provinces

As launching pad for its education project in Basulta (Basilan, Sulu and Tawi Tawi, the island provinces in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao), the foundation has chosen Languyan, says Bautista, "to demonstrate the length and breadth KCFI goes through just to reach the remotest and most isolated areas of the country so that more children can gain from this gift of knowledge."

There is a reported 40-percent illiteracy rate among children over 10 years old in these areas. And Tawi Tawi is one of the most neglected provinces in the country because of nondelivery of social services, especially basic education, stresses TEAMM project director Doris Nuval.

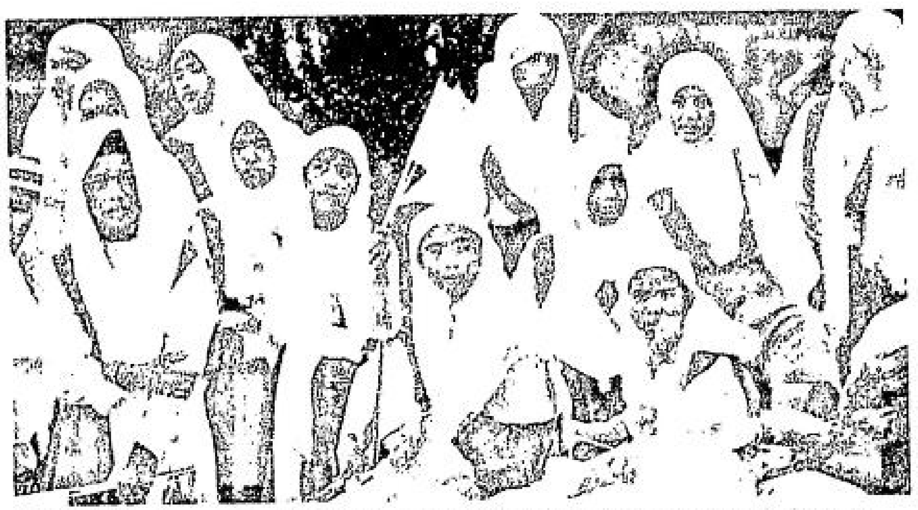
In October last year, the foundation was granted $1 million by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to help "improve the quality of education in the ARMM and raise academic performance of students through educational television (ETV) programs, by providing KCh to 150 public schools in the area through installing satellite dishes, digital receivers and 29" TV sets in viewing rooms."

TEAMM is enjoined to produce a video program series of 10 episodes on peace and education and another 10 on business and livelihood skills for out-of-school youths displaced by armed conflicts.

The ETV is meant as a supplement to the traditional chalk-and-board method. Its materials, sourced both internationally and locally, are matched with the Department of Education curriculum, while its programs are "at par in quality with those viewed by children in developed countries."

Mission and rewards

To enable satellite TV-based distance-education facilities, electrification through the photo-voltaic system (solar panels) of remote rural communities of Western and Central Mindanao is being provided by the Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore). This is a program of USAID, Winrock International, Department of Energy, ARMM and Migrant Philippines.



CHILDREN of Languyan Central Elementary School wait for the arrival of guests during the launch of Television Education for the Advancement of Muslim Mindanao.

Since the project's launch in the ARMM last year, KCh has been reaching 32,254 students in 42 public schools in seven municipalities in Maguindanao. With the launch on Languyan, it hopes to reach 3,987 more students in 15 schools in the most isolated and impoverished barangays of Tawi Tawi.

Languyan Central Elementary School is KCFI's 1,550th school and TEAMM's 42nd school to be provided with KCh. Installation is ongoing in 12 schools in Basilan, and will be in Sultan Kudarat and Sarangani by next year.

Flying in from Washington, DC, to attend the Nov. 9 launch was James Kunder, USAID assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East. Also present were US embassy chargé d'affaires Paul Jones, USAID Philippines mission director Jon Lindborg, Tawi Tawi Gov. Sadikul Sahali. They came by choppers.

KNOWLEDGE Channel Foundation president and executive director Rina Lopez-Bautista

Bautista recounts the nightmarish experiences they had to go through during TEAMM's launch last year, particularly in the conflict-ridden areas. Compared to it, the Basulta launch was a breeze.

This bringing of the gift of knowledge Bautista considers a mission, especially since the ARMM provinces are known to have "the worst human-development indexes in the country," and its people harbor "a sense of alienation from the rest of the nation and their developing Asian kin."

Last month, her 6-year-old brainchild, Knowledge Channel, received from the Catholic Mass Media Awards the Serviam Award for the Institution that Best Exemplifies Christian Values. Recently in Jakarta, out of 90 entries, it was given the Asian Corporate Social Responsibility Award in Support and Improvement of Education.

USAID Philippines mission director Jon Lindborg and US embassy chargé d'affaires Paul Jones at the launch

Alliance for Mindanao Off-Grid Renewable Energy
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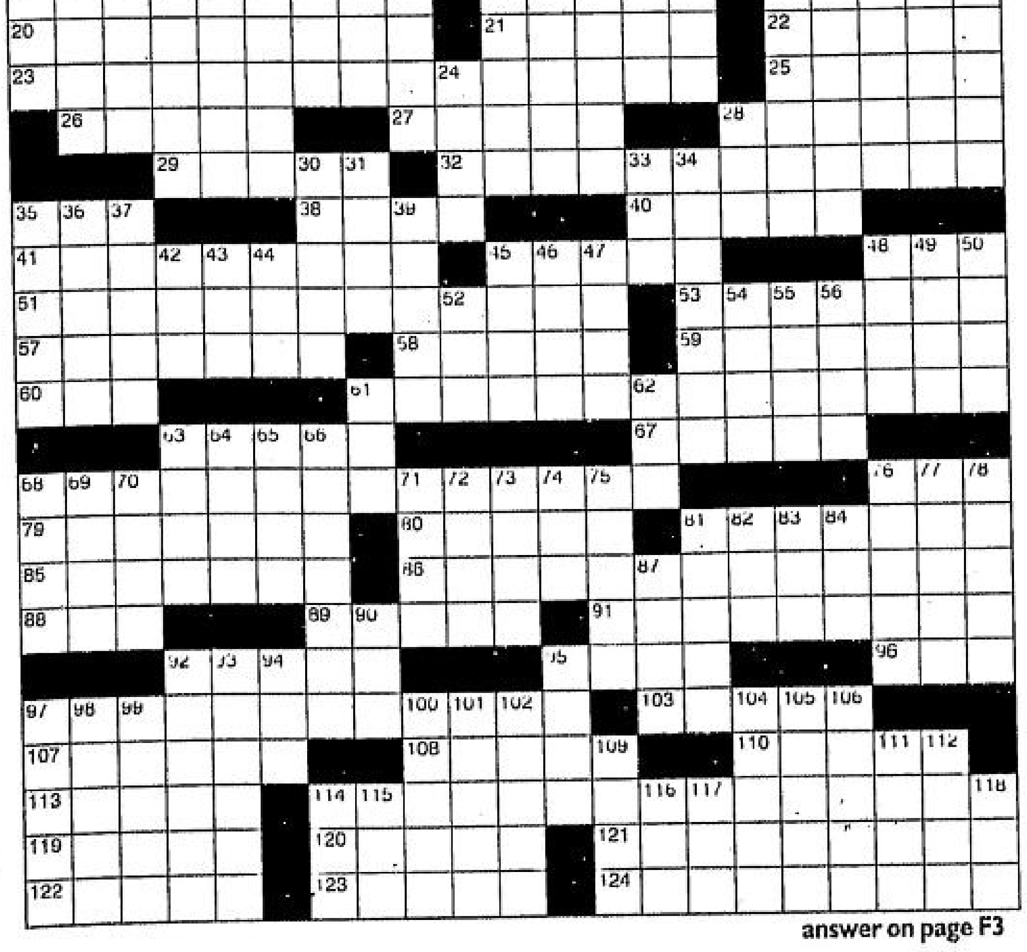
LANGUYAN islanders welcome guests from Bongao, Manila and Washington, DC.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo COLLECTION

ACROSS
1 Explore a coral reef, e.g.
10 Future fly
15 Felt pain
20 Making no sense
21 Think tank products
22 Actress Bow
23 Site of auto speed tests in the Great Salt Lake Desert
25 Sully
26 Mississippi river
27 Makeup flaw
28 Little finger
29 Repeatedly
32 Dubliners' accents
35 A Gershwin brother
38 Enormous
40 Millennia on end
41 Aptly named city that lies in two states
45 Cybernotes
48 Before, in poetry
51 Gizmos for twisting fiber into yarn
53 Hurtful person
57 New — Saints
58 Data processor?
59 Approaching
60 Some boxing wins
61 They're used in laying tracks
63 Zest
67 They might be loaded at Shea
68 Venomous swamp snakes
76 Hive dweller
79 Makes available
80 Addis —, Ethiopia
81 Old Chevys
85 Sale labels
86 Stopped-up drains, e.g.
88 Masthead figs.
89 Force
91 Not worth including
92 Zsa Zsa and Eva's sister
95 "— to differ!"
96 Female, e.g.
97 Ten-speed tire inflaters
103 Inquisitor — de Torquemada
107 UN cultural arm
108 Tendency
110 Portents
113 Al — (a little firm)
114 "Most certainly!"
119 Be admitted
120 Wet month
121 Principles held to be always true
122 King's decree
123 Throes
124 Richard Gere's "Unfaithful" co-star

DOWN
1 Sis, e.g.
2 Surfeit with excess
3 Wrist-to-elbow bone
4 Film chimp who had a "bedtime"
5 — Aquarius
6 Golfer's gouged-out clump
7 Here, in Paris
8 Kilmer of "Batman Forever"
9 Pipe elbows
10 Permanent prisoner
11 Cleveland's veep Stevenson
12 Raises
13 Large tub
14 Balaam's equine
15 Director's cry
16 Cymbal sounds
17 17-syllable poem
18 Bert's friend
19 Sees socially
24 Let out
28 Veteran
30 Linda of "Dynasty"
31 Da — (port in central Vietnam)
33 "Bali —" ("South Pacific" song)
34 Pop singer Carlisle
35 Reassuring words
36 Printing proof
37 Angles between leaves and branches
39 Conga cousin
42 Chemical suffix
43 Gene stuff
44 Relatives
45 Mideast airline
46 Israel's Golda
47 Come — surprise
48 Actor Estrada
49 Philosopher Descartes
50 Units of work
52 Spoon-bender Geller
54 Loch —
55 Mock
56 "Exodus" novelist Leon
61 Huge bird of myth
62 Sit-ups sculpt them
63 Bloke
64 Bear in the heavens
65 Self-satisfied
66 Upper surface
68 Had on
69 Copied
70 Koppel and Turner
71 Li'l Abner's creator
72 Qualified
73 Novelist Bellow
74 "Big Blue" corp.
75 Big cheese
76 Amorphous masses
77 Hawk relative
78 English county
81 Covent Garden architect Jones
82 Booker T. & the — (1960s band)
83 74-Down products
84 Former Frazier foe
87 "— Him on a Sunday"
90 Plot (out)
92 Occult
93 Emphasis
94 Mop & — (floor cleaner)
95 Has no life
97 Stir slightly
98 "— a vacation!"
99 Hundredth: Prefix
100 Motorist's 180
101 Honcho
102 Rinds
104 Half-wit
105 Saunter
106 Korean capital
109 Group of two
111 "— chance!"
112 "Nana" star Anna
114 Bark sharply
115 — -Locka, FL
116 Kimono closer
117 Old Glory's land
118 Vane abbr.



answer on page F3

New school offers degree course in hotel management

THE NEW ENDERUN COLLEGES announced it would be offering a Bachelor's Degree in International Hospitality Management (BS-IHM) starting June 2006 at its campus in Ortigas Center.

Students can pursue Culinary Arts and Hotel Administration. Enderun provides a solid foundation for a career in hospitality management, with emphasis on worldwide internships with partner establishments all over the world.

Founder and chief operating officer Jack Tuason said the school aimed to be recognized as one of the global leaders in hospitality and culinary education. Enderun's approach to hospitality management combined the traditions of Swiss service, United States theoretical methods, and modern Filipino flair.

Tuason said the career-oriented approach would prepare graduates for top creative and management positions in restaurants, hotels and resorts worldwide.

CHEF See Cheong Yan, Culinary Department chair of Enderun Colleges Inc., holds a cooking demo of Christmas treats.

The Enderun campus was designed to create an optimal learning environment for students, with state-of-the art technologies, including cutting-edge audiovisual equipment and wireless networking in classrooms and demonstration laboratories.

The College, located at Wynsum Corporate Plaza, expects to enroll its first full freshman class in June 2006, and gradually increase enrollment to more than 2,000 by 2010. Short courses on entrepreneurship and culinary arts will be introduced starting February 2006.

A larger campus that includes a college-managed boutique hotel, is expected to be completed in mid-2008.

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New master's program in law

THE COLLEGE OF LAW OF THE Polytechnic University of the Philippines will soon offer special courses for graduates of Bachelor of Laws leading to the degree of Master of Science in the different disciplines of law, it was announced yesterday by Dean Antonio R. Tupaz.

The new program is expected to benefit 4,000 bar flunkers every year. It will also benefit members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines who desire to obtain specialization in law.

The special degree was proposed by Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, chair of the 2004 Bar Examination, and studied by retired Justice Raoul V. Victorino, RTC Judge Romeo F. Barza (president, Philippine Judges Association) and Roy V. Señeres, former chair of the National Labor Relations Commission.

Tupaz said the new program will be managed by him, Dean Willard B. Riano of San Sebastian Recolletos Institute of Law, and professors Edwin R. Sandoval and Rolando Suarez.

Tupaz said the MS program will offer specializations in Corporate Management, Taxation, Security, Law Office Management, Real Estate, Mediation and Negotiation, Insurance Law, and Criminal Investigation.

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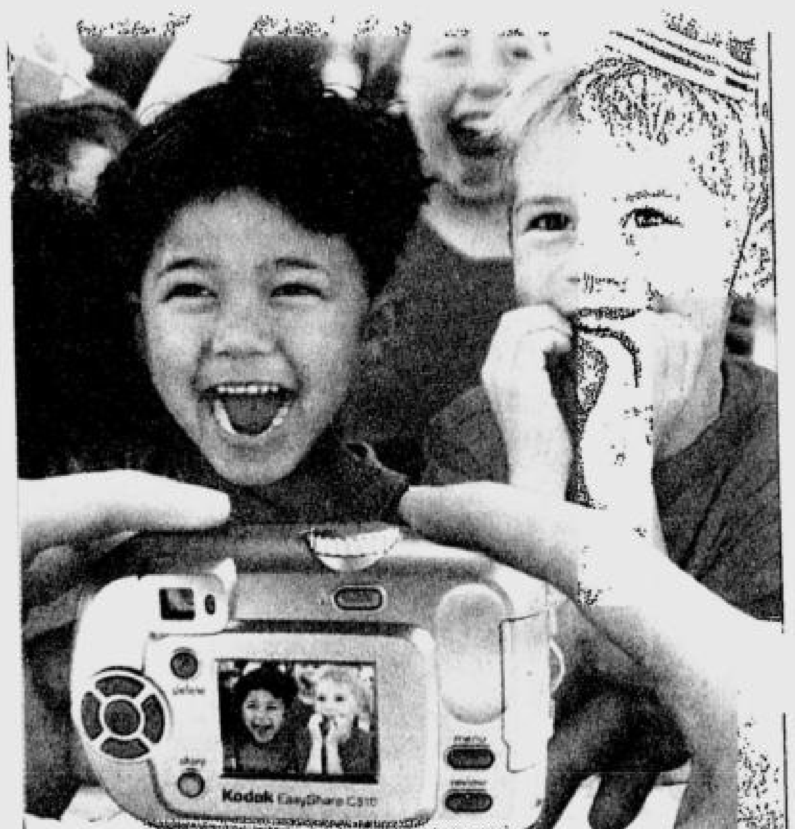

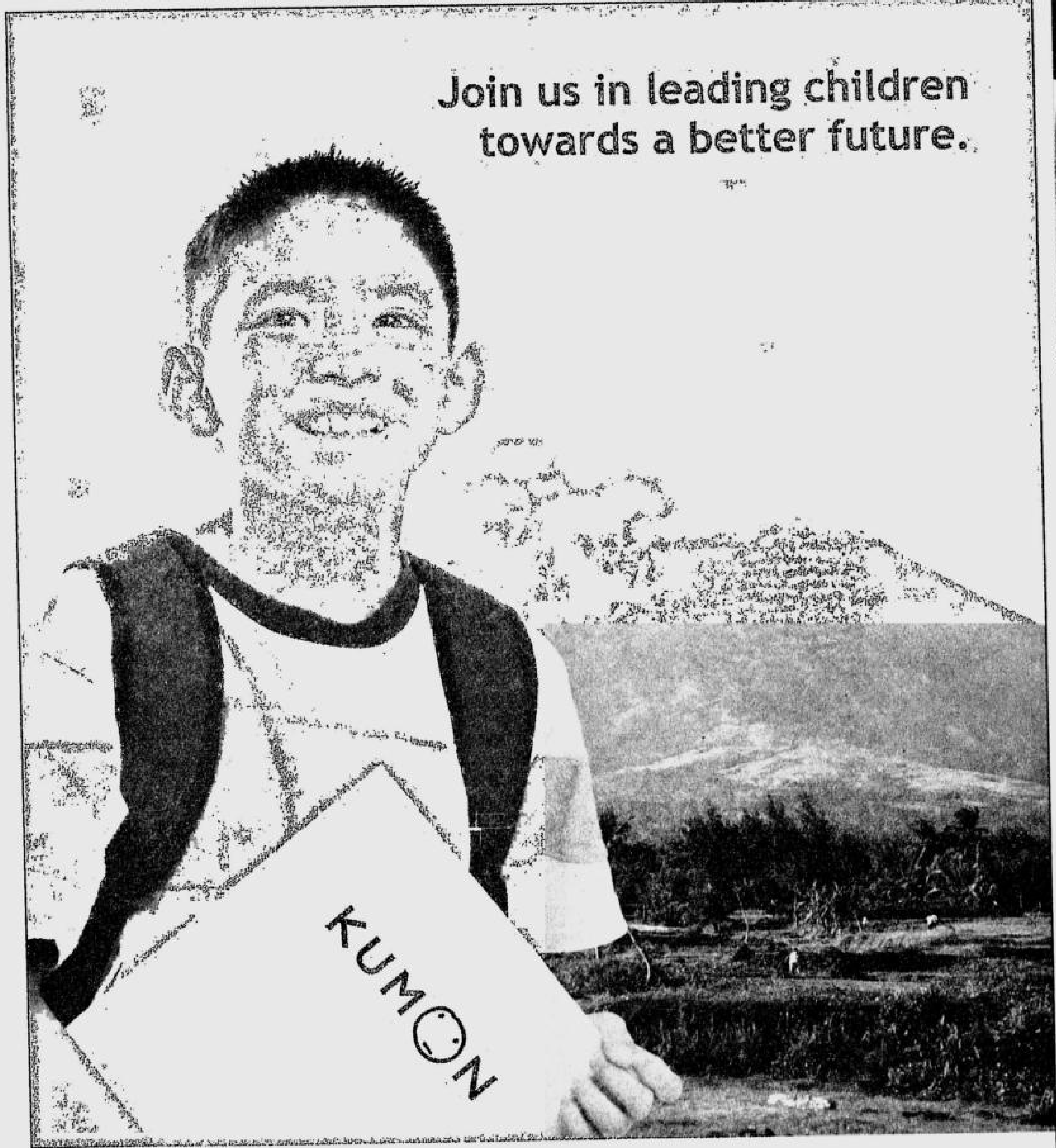
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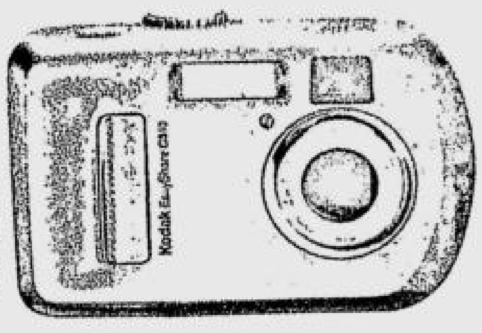

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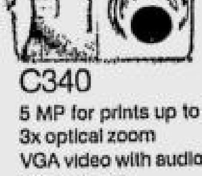

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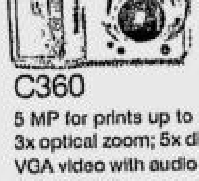

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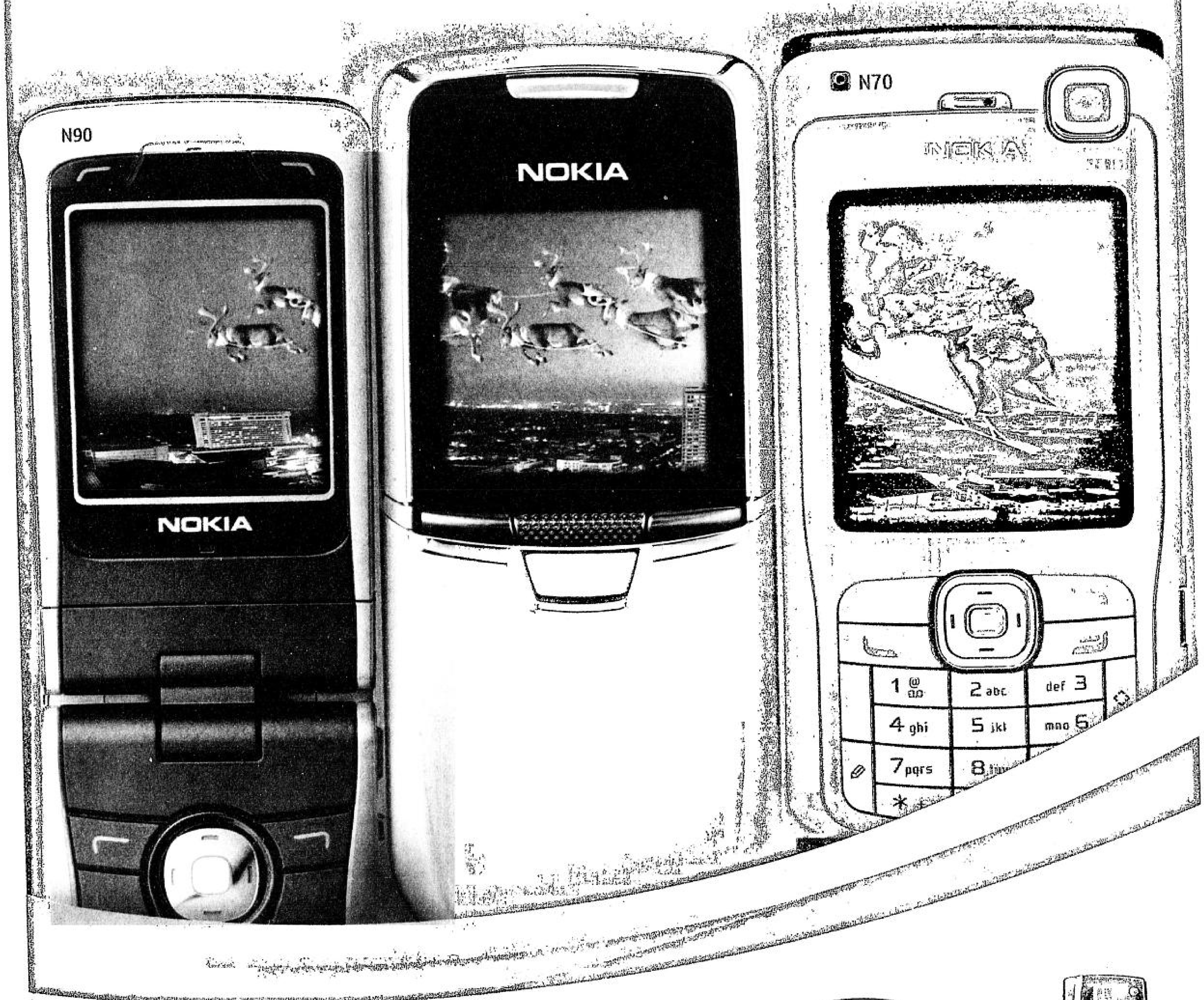

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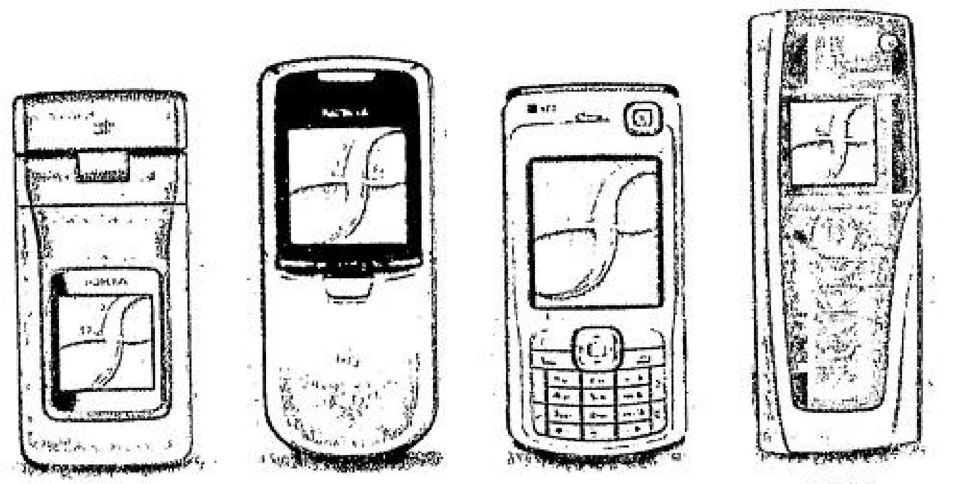

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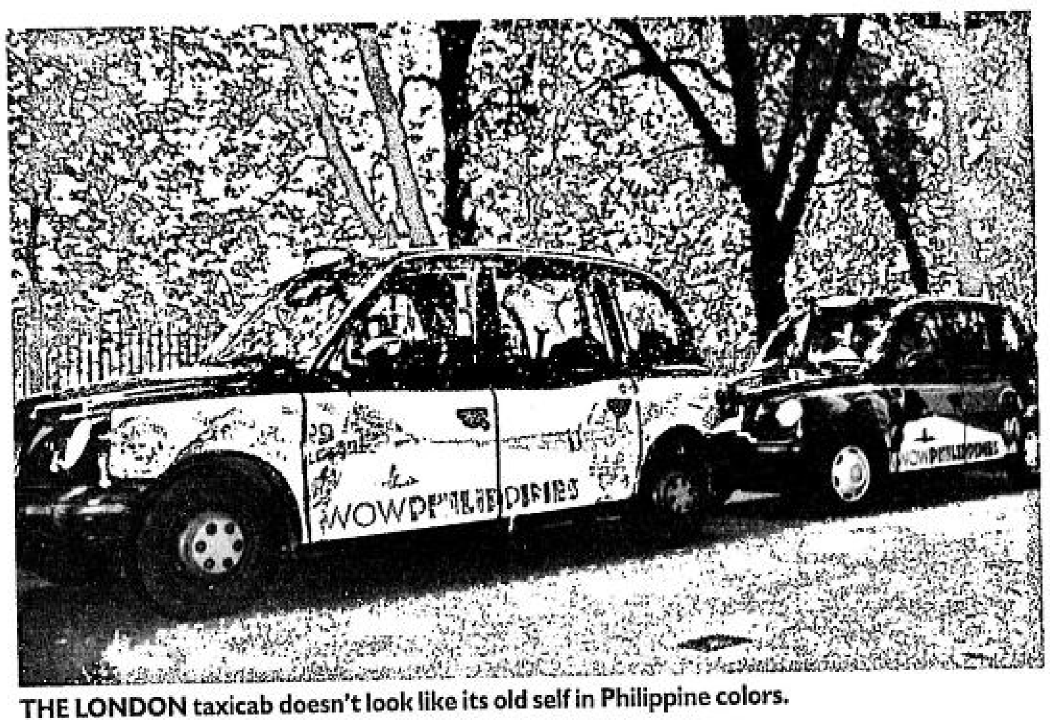

THE LONDON taxicab doesn't look like its old self in Philippine colors.

British icon dons jeepney art

STORY ON PAGE E2

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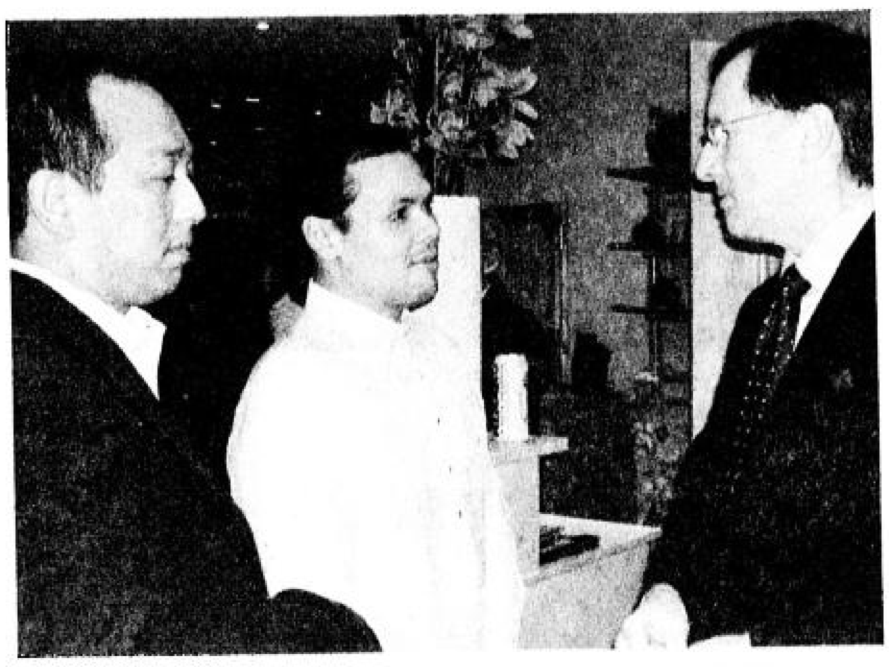
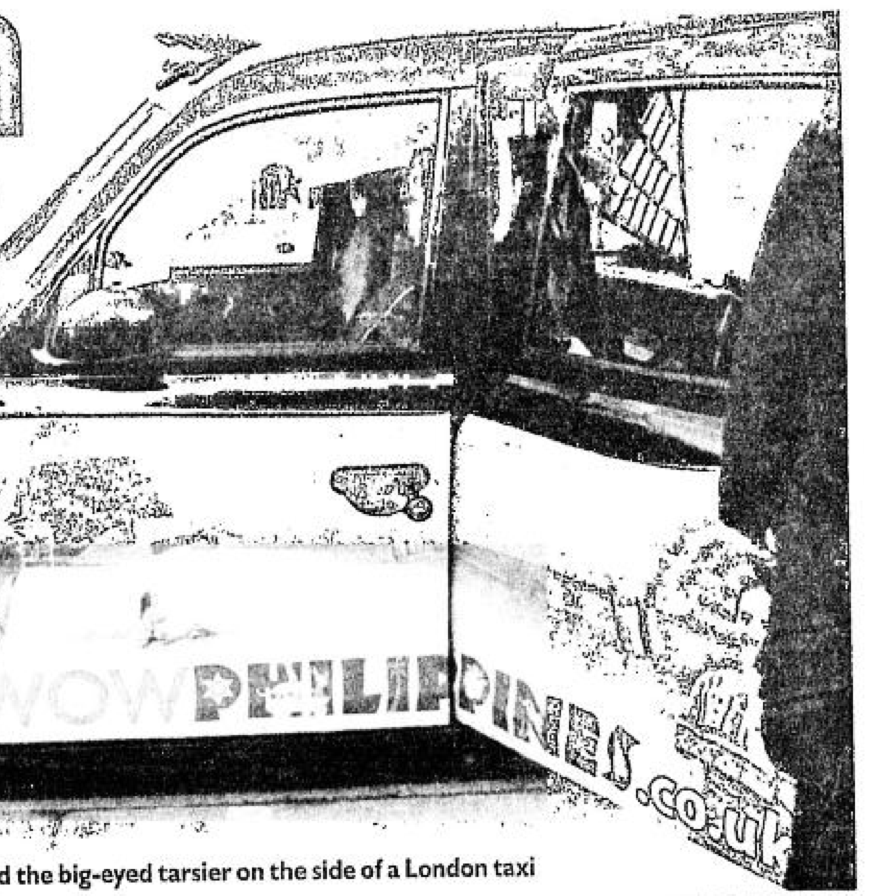
The expensive London taxi is going around sporting the full plumage of flamboyant Pinoy sounds and sights

THE TWO-STORY Vigan House of the Philippines towers over neighbors at the WTM, which include Japan, Indonesia and Vietnam.



TOURISM Secretary Joseph Durano (center) welcomes former British Ambassador to the Philippines Paul Dimond (right). At left is Domingo Ramon C. Enerio, tourism attaché in London.

British icon dons jeepney art



A GLIMPSE of Boracay's white sand and the big-eyed tarsier on the side of a London taxi

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH and consort of Queen Elizabeth II, reportedly occasionally tools around in one of them.

That may not be all that surprising even for a royal because most people who have taken the London taxicab, as quintessentially British as the monarchy, find it one of the most comfortable ways to move around the city (that is, if they can afford the rather steep rate).

Large and traditionally black, the sturdy taxi seems like it has been built from a retired tank much like the way the Filipino jeepney was fashioned out of the American military jeep.

But these days, the London taxi—50 in all—is looking decidedly like another reincarnation of the jeepney. Painted in tropical colors with images of the tarsier, Chocolate Hills, white beach of Boracay and Filipino woman in a sarong, with the word WOW painted in the biggest letters the vehicle can accommodate, the 50 London taxis are not looking quite like their old selves.

Though the body "artwork" is not quite baroque, the style favored by jeepney manufacturers of old, it is definitely much louder than Britons are used to.

HILOT Atho de la Cruz demonstrates what makes Filipino massage different.

Six-month campaign

Launched in September at a cost of UK£35,000 (about P3.5 million) for six months, the fleet of taxicabs is part of the Department of Tourism's aggressive campaign to make Europeans, specifically Britons, put the Philippines in their itinerary next time they travel.

A motorcade of the Filipinized taxis on opening day also drew attention to the country's participation in the recent World Travel Market (WTM) 2005 held in ExCel, the exhibition center in Docklands, a new development site in east London near the banks of the River Thames.

TRADITIONAL dance and music are performed every afternoon at the Japanese booth.

A **"CHIMNEY sweep"** invites WTM visitors to catch "Mary Poppins" at London's West End.

Now on its 26th year, the annual WTM draws travel and tourism companies, national tourism agencies, tour operators and ordinary travelers. This year, more than 200 countries and regions were represented and over 100 tourism ministers, ambassadors and high commissioners attended.

Visiting the WTM was a virtual trip around the world. Each country or region tried to encapsulate in a few square feet what it considered to be its main tourist draws or most recognizable symbols and images.

Russia had a truncated Orient Express while Libya had Bedouins in a "desert" tent. An "Inca" in traditional garb invited guests to enter a "cave" for a glimpse of the empire's rich culture through artifacts and costumes.

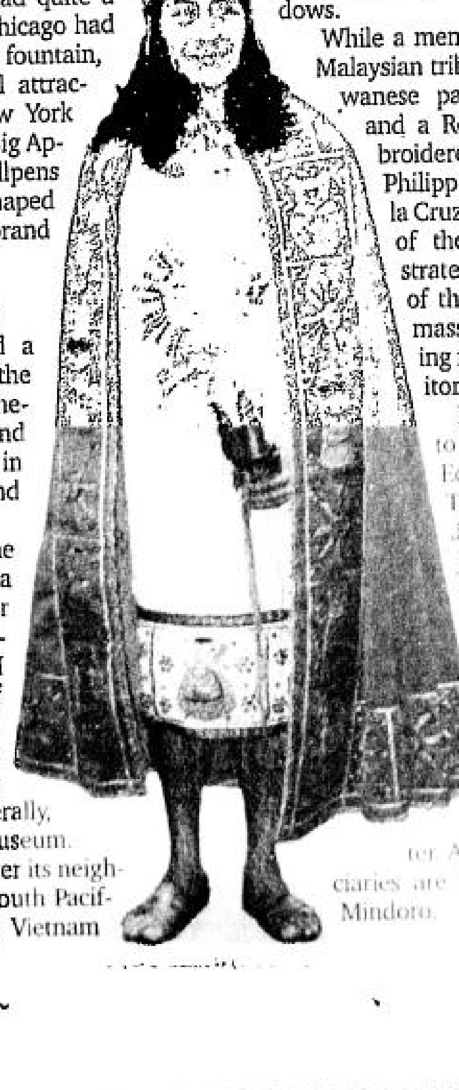
Japan, next-door neighbor of the Philippines, presented traditional dancers and musicians (not to mention the crowd-drawing sushi and sake every evening). The United States had quite a participation. Among others, Chicago had a constantly flowing chocolate fountain, Florida highlighted its natural attractions like the Everglades, New York lived up to its monicker as the Big Apple by giving away ballpens with—what else?—an apple-shaped end, and Las Vegas touted its brand of entertainment.

'George' by his lonesome

Host United Kingdom had a chimney sweep to advertise the West End and its numerous theatrical presentations and "knights" in armors and ladies in flounced skirts paraded around the booth.

"George Clooney" sat alone at a table, but ready to offer a "diamond ring" to whoever joined him. But a photographer was quick to warn: "I wouldn't accept his proposal if I were you. He has proposed to a hundred women (actually men, too)." Clooney was actually the image model, literally, for Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum.

The Philippines towered over its neighbors that also included the South Pacific's Tahiti and Cook Islands, Vietnam and Indonesia, with its two-story Vigan house decorated with artificial palm trees. Colorful *parol* hung from its windows.

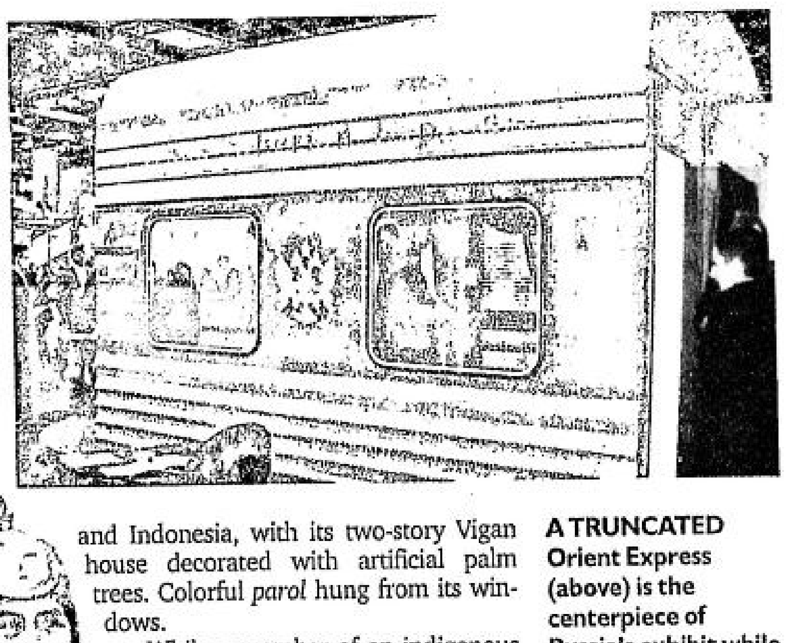


While a member of an indigenous Malaysian tribe strung beads, a Taiwanese painter decorated fans and a Romanian woman embroidered souvenir items, the Philippines' Aniceto "Atho" de la Cruz of the Spa Association of the Philippines demonstrated the healing qualities of the country's traditional massage, the *hilot*, providing relief to at least one visitor with a sprained ankle.

Philippine Ambassador to the United Kingdom Edgardo B. Espiritu and Tourism Secretary Joseph H. Durano joined the Philippine delegation on opening day. The Philippines also made a modest contribution on the first day to Just a Drop, a charity foundation providing poor communities access to potable water. Among projected beneficiaries are the Mangyan tribes in Mindoro.

CHEN Mao-Chuan decorates a fan for a visitor at Taiwan's booth.

EVEN "George Clooney" cannot keep this man from answering his mobile phone.



A TRUNCATED Orient Express (above) is the centerpiece of Russia's exhibit while Peru showcases its rich Inca heritage (left).

Wise investment

Though participating in WTM in London may seem pricey, Durano said the investment was well worth it. Given the negative image the Philippines had in many countries, he said, "the best thing was for people to link up with Philippine travel industry representatives" and be briefed on the real situation to ease their apprehensions.

He said the country's presence in events like WTM was an opportunity to explain that, with the Philippines being an archipelago, visitors had plenty of options. The WTM and similar events, the secretary said, resulted in actual bookings.

Durano said the country's thrust was to maximize use of existing facilities, many of which were underutilized. The country was also going into niche marketing.

Local tourism and travel industry representatives seemed quite gratified by the volume of business they made. They said Britons and Europeans had, in the past, favored other Asian destinations like Thailand and Indonesia but were now becoming more interested in the Philippines in their search for something different.

Also represented in the WTM were Annset Holidays, Inc., Baron Travel Corporation, Bayan Ko Tours and Travel, Blue Horizons Travel and Tours, Intas Destination Management, Marsman Drysdale Travel and Tours, Rajah Tours Philippines, TRIPS Travel, El Nido Resorts, Club Panoly, Hilton Cebu Hotel and Spa, and Philippine Airlines.

LIBYA'S booth features Bedouins in their desert tent.

Vintage seaplane on historic world tour

FRESH FROM A SUCCESSFUL international aviation show held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, a unique vintage Dornier 24ATT seaplane restored by Filipino aircraft engineers made a historic landing on New York's Hudson River fronting Battery Park, lower Manhattan, not too long ago.

The aircraft performed low flights around the Statue of Liberty and along the coastline of Manhattan where it landed near the Battery Park area on one Sunday weekend.

The Do-24ATT was greeted by a large crowd, among them many Filipinos from the throng who waved small Philippine flags. Philippine Consul General Cecilia Rebong, Director of Tourism Emma Ruth Yulo and Gina Francisco of the Philippine Tourism Office in New York invited Filipinos living in the tri-state area to witness the Do-24ATT's landing.

The event was one of the highlights in the seaplane's two-year-long world tour spearheaded by German national Capt. Iren Dornier.

As chair and co-founder of domestic carrier South East Asian Airlines (Seair), Dornier is piloting the Do-24ATT to over 90 destinations worldwide including the United States to globally promote the Philippines as a viable and attractive tourist destination, as well as to generate additional support for United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) Philippines' programs on child education, protection and awareness.

"The Do-24ATT is a testament to Filipino ingenuity and hard work. This aircraft was withdrawn from Munich's Deutsches Museum, where it was on loan since 1984, and disassembled by my team under freezing weather conditions. Its parts were then shipped back to the Philippines. In July 2003, it was painstakingly reassembled and restored by 20 Filipino SEAIR aircraft engineers and mechanics in company headquarters in Clark Air Field, Angeles City, which is some 38 miles away from Manila," said Dornier.

"As a foreigner, I myself fell in the love with the Philippines 10 years ago and decided to set up a domestic airline company with colleagues Nikos Gitsis and Tommy Lopez in order to give travelers the chance to see the country's famous local tourist getaways as well as quaint places off the beaten track. Whether your interests lie in sightseeing, scuba diving, beachcombing, snorkeling, spelunking, mountain climbing, or simply island-hopping—one has always much to see and do while traveling around the Philippines," he added.

The Do-24ATT world tour is a grandson's tribute to the pioneering efforts of aircraft manufacturer Claude Dornier. Dornier landed the seaplane on the Hudson River—the same place where exactly 74 years ago, his grandfather presented the 12-engine all-metal flying boat Dornier Do-X, the largest, heaviest and most powerful aircraft in the world in its time. The 1931 Hudson River landing was also one of the highlights of Claude Dornier's 1929-1931 Dornier Do-X world tour. Many decades later, a part of this route was retraced by his grandson.

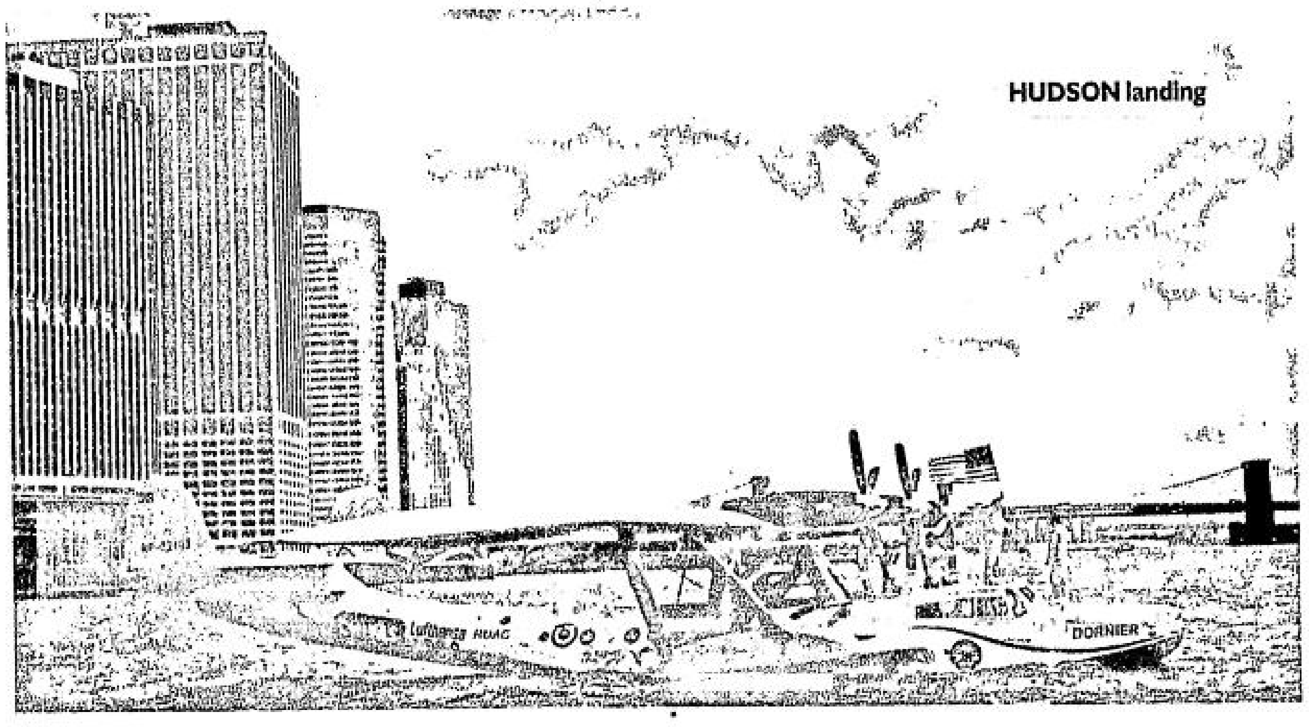
The vintage aircraft, which won the Lindy Judges' Choice Award at the earlier Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) AirVenture in Oskosh, Wisconsin, has already covered 33 destinations in 19 countries so far and has raised US$61,000 for Unicef Philippines.

After its US tour, the seaplane will cover countries in South America. From Fortaleza, Brazil, it will also fly to Cabo Verde in the African coast. Upon its return to the Philippines, it will be used by Seair to service local five-star resorts.

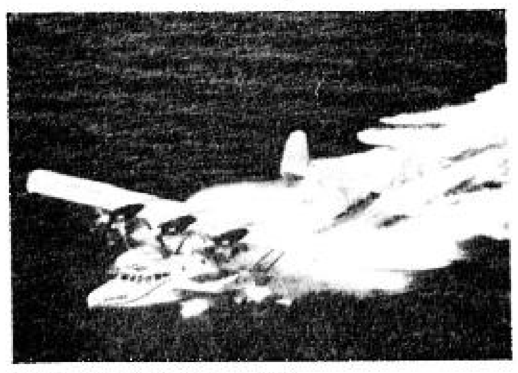
Offering discerning passengers the opportunity to travel in style, the seaplane comes equipped with leather interiors, TV monitors, a bar and a kitchen, and even a special two-seater observation area dubbed by Seair as the "love dome" which offers a 360-degree view while the plane is in flight.

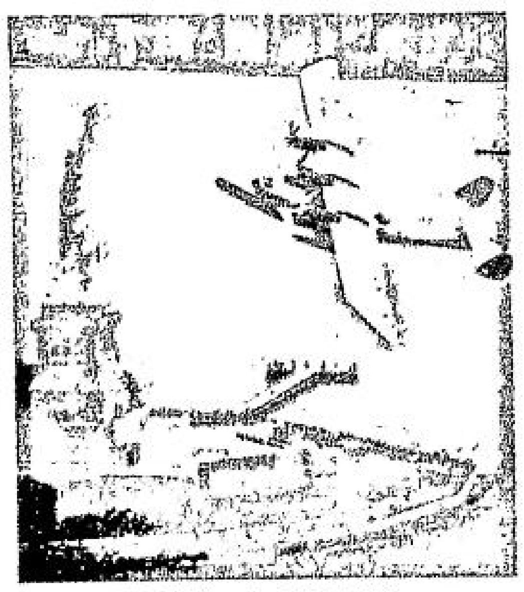
According to Dornier, the Do-24ATT is the only Dornier seaplane left in commercial operation and will be the only amphibian aircraft in the Philippines used for such operations.

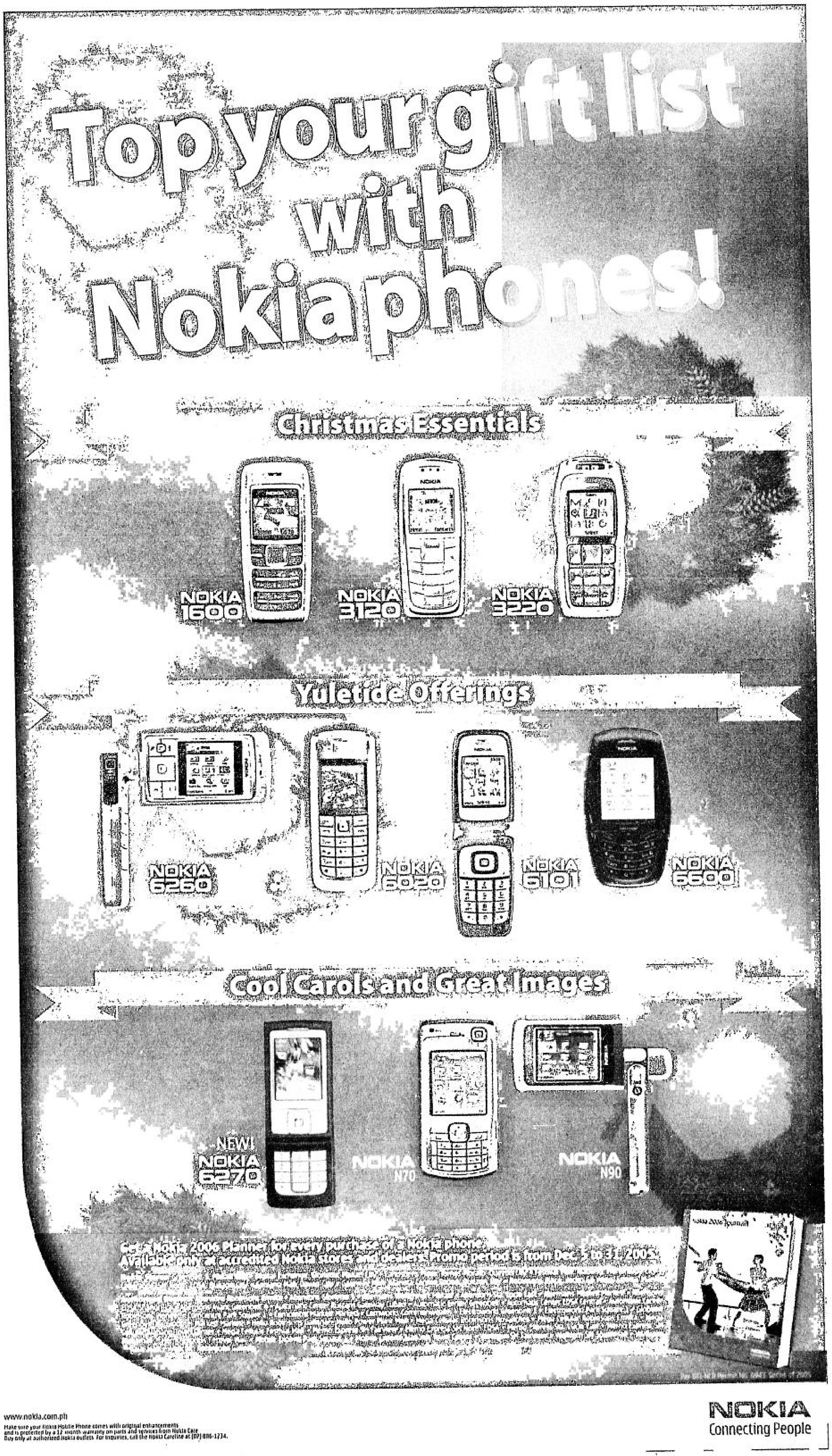
For more information on the Dornier World Tour Project, visit www.do-24.com


HUDSON landing

SYLVIUS Dornier and Capt. Iren Dornier


DO-24ATT water landing


THE VINTAGE Dornier 24ATT flying over the Statue of Liberty in New York



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TRAVELBRIEFS

Frequent-flyer miles donated to hurricane, quake relief

Skywards, the frequent-flyer program of Emirates and Sri Lankan Airlines, is appealing to members to donate Skywards Miles to support relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the South Asian earthquake.

Donated Miles will be exchanged for tickets in order to transport volunteers and aid workers to the affected areas. Skywards has donated one million miles to kick off the campaign. Members have already donated 3,022,500 miles to the Hurricane Katrina appeal and 1,137,500 to the South Asian earthquake appeal. In July 2004, Skywards celebrated its millionth Skywards member by donating one million miles each to the Unicef, Care International and Dubai-based Beit Al Khair. Members also contributed an additional 12.5 million miles. Members also donated 12 million miles for the victims of the tsunami disaster, supplemented with one more million miles by Skywards.

IATA accreditation

People Support (Philippines) Inc., an offshore business process outsourcing (BPO) provider which offers customer management and accounts-receivable management services for US-based clients from its facilities in the Philippines, recently received its accreditation from the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The accreditation makes People Support the first BPO provider in the Philippines to be accredited with the IATA and makes the company a true travel expert. In addition to discounted airline tickets, employees are entitled to discounted hotel rates, discounts in selected restaurants and duty-free shops, perks from airlines and visa and passport processing. Normally, only the executives of IATA-accredited companies are the ones who are given IATA privilege cards. In People Support's case, all qualified travel employees will be issued an IATA privilege card which is recognized in 175 countries worldwide. Call 7552600 or visit www,peoplesupport.com.

Blockbuster deals

Toursunlimited offers the best deals this December. Aside from excellent personalized service, it also has domestic and international reservations and ticketing; planning of itineraries; domestic and international package tours; hotel reservations; visa assistance and processing; Eurail pass; educational and pilgrimage tours; cultural tours; outdoor excursions and other specialty tours. This month, a buy-one-take-one promo of Hong Kong, which includes round-trip ticket and transfers, overnight in Shenzhen China and day tour of Disneyland, is being offered. Call 6382261 or 6353043 loc. 18, e-mail toursunlimited_co@yahoo.com. Toursunlimited is at unit 2204A East Tower, PSE Bldg., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

Bayanihan in well-received shows

THE BAYANIHAN PHILIPPINE NATIONAL Folk Dance Company recently staged a cultural presentation during the China-Asean Exposition (Caexpo) held in Nanning, China, at the Taipei International Travel Fair (TITF) held in Taiwan, and before 2,000 viewers at the SOC Concert Hall in Singapore.

All these performances were geared toward promoting RP tourism by enticing travelers to visit the islands and see the Philippines' wonders and attractions.

Tourism Sec. Ace Durano, who was with the Bayanihan during its Taiwan trip, said, "The members of Bayanihan Dance Company are perfect ambassadors of the country advocating the nation's history, traditions and talent."

Taiwan has been consistently ranking as one of the Philippines' top tourist sources, placing fourth behind the United States, Korea, and Japan. Meanwhile, China has become the fastest-growing market after posting an unprecedented increase of 146.7 percent for January to September of 2005 from the same period last year, making it the sixth highest supplier of foreign visitors.

Bayanihan's musical director Lito Vale Cruz said, "The dance troupe's highly acclaimed performances were a celebration of our nation's culture and traditions and were greatly appreciated by foreign spectators. In fact, they were one of the crowd-drawers during the Caexpo and TITF."

The DOT, Philippine Embassies to China and Singapore, and the Jetstar Asia sponsored the Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company's cultural presentations.

As early as now, the group has been scheduled to perform next year in Shanghai and Kunming, China, South Africa and Indonesia.

The Bayanihan Dance Group will celebrate its 50th year anniversary in 2006.

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10 things women should know about men and their cars

By Greg Yu

1 WE NEED A NICE-LOOKING CAR SO we won't spend too much time going through inspection at five-star hotels and subdivision gates.

2 We've always played with cars. As kids we are given toy cars, some of them we can even ride in. And now you're blaming us?

3 They say it's a concrete jungle out there. That's why we need a few good cars to survive the daily struggle.

4 Diamonds are a girl's best friend and cars are a man's.

5 If women can play dress-up with their little black dresses, we should be allowed to do that too, with our cars.

6 We are what we drive, so that's transparency for you. But beware—for some of us, what we drive is what we're trying hard to be.

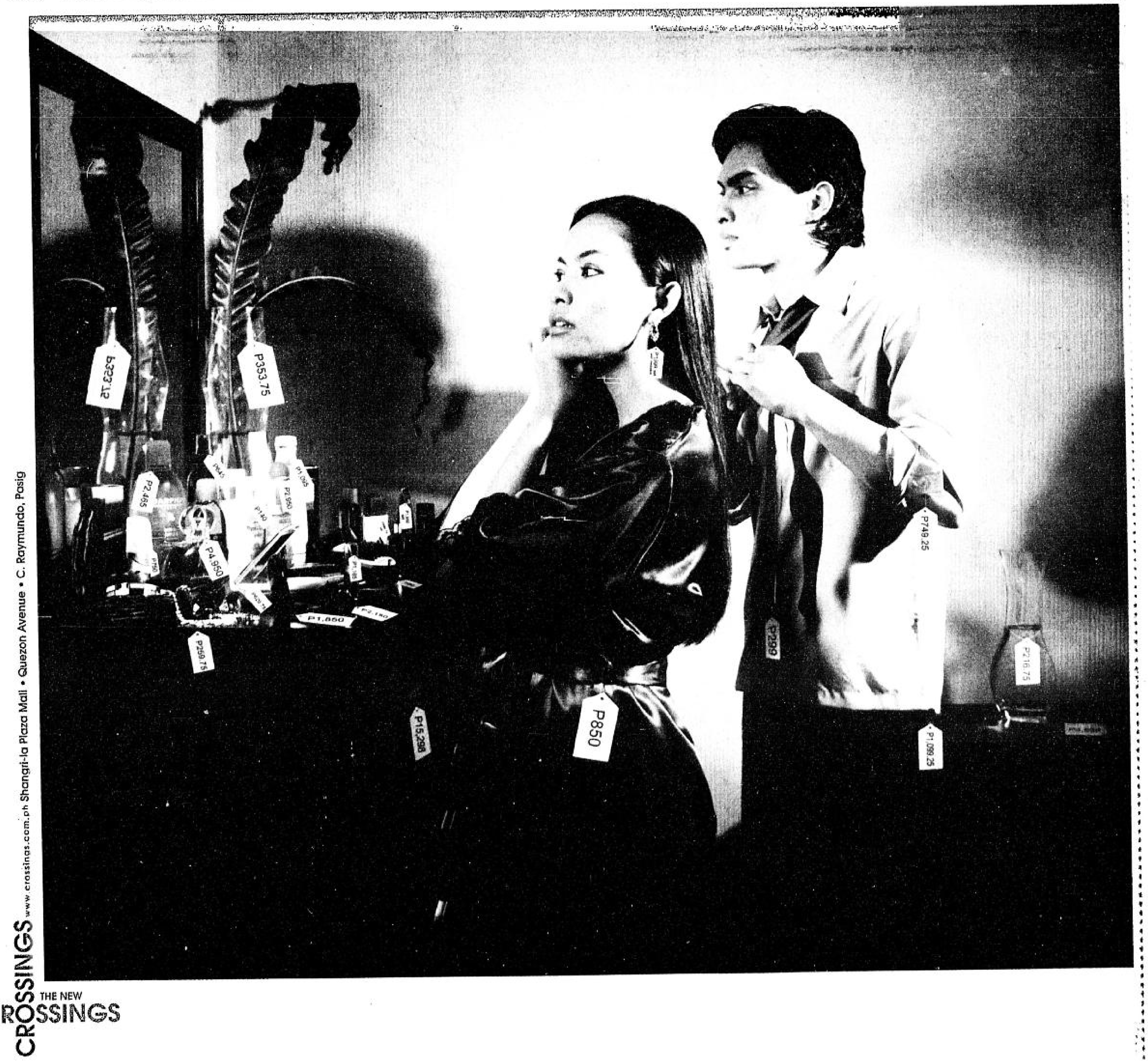
7 Women should let us buy the car we like so we can't say no to whatever they ask for. This is called "give and take."

8 A good car is an extension of our masculinity. So it's really not Viagra that is the secret to a blissful married life.

9 When we touch the hood and feel the supple leather interior of our brand-new car, the sensation is akin to touching our first born for the very first time.

10 We may pretend we don't but we know that if we pamper our life partners the way we pamper our cars, there will be more peace on earth.

GREG YU was 18 years old when he got his first car, a 1963 Mercedes-Benz 2205. Those hand-me-down wheels set off his passion for Mercedes-Benz, so much so that in his garage today he has a 2005 MB B200 ("it's roomy"), a 2002 MB S280, a 2000 MB E240, a 1998 MB E230, a 1996 MB100 van (for family trips). Their house, he says, was designed around the cars. His dream car is the MB Mayback. Obsessed, you say? Well, he should be. He's chair of Cats Motors Inc., which recently launched 3 new Benz models: the S-Class, the B-Class and the M-Class. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



CROSSINGS www.crossings.com.ph Shangri-la Plaza Mall • Quezon Avenue • C. Raymundo, Pasig
THE NEW CROSSINGS

SILK Cocoon model Jacques Dupasquier and Katrina Goulbourn

FELICITY'S Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo

TECHNOMARINE director Serge Choukron and Just Shop-aholic Jenni Epperson

SILK Cocoon designer Jean Goulbourn and SM CEO Tessie Sy Coson

MANNY Dimaculangan and his son Santi

GAWAD Kalinga main supporter Dylan Wilk and Dennis Valdes

Just watch me!

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

WHEN I WAS STILL PART of the dating scene a decade or so ago, I would first scrutinize the shoes, then the watch of my date. I wasn't really looking at the brands, but more of the styles—something that would reveal my date's sense of fashion.

Until now, I still scope out men's watches, not with any dating intentions but to get ideas for my husband **Dennis**. When we first met, he was a dependable Swatch man. Now I like seeing him wear some of his dressier watches. When one has been married as long as we have, the strangest things are still exciting.

At the launch of International Watch Company (IWC) Ingenieur in Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, I encountered a large number of watch aficionados. I had never seen such huge men's watches as those worn by college classmate architect **Manny Dimaculangan** and newscaster **Mike Toledo**. Maybe the gigantic-sized faces of the watches project more testosterone. Whodathunkit?

> I have never seen such huge men's watches before! Maybe they project more testosterone

Exclusively available at Lucerne boutiques, the IWC timepieces have excellent dynamics and precision with their powerful Swiss movement and titanium bands. If men could only be as efficient and dashing as these masterpieces, there would be a lot more happy marriages out there.

The prestigious German car-maker, Mercedes AMG, announced its alliance with IWC at the Ingenieur launch. These two top names have joined hands to deliver a new generation of functional, innovative and engineering-perfect watches.

Technomarine

In contrast to the more mature, established crowd at that launch, the Technomarine party at Embassy was packed with a young, hip set. Siblings **Raffy** and **Mia Florencio** hosted a party with INQUIRER Super!'s **Tim Yap** as the image model to launch the über-chic eyewear of Technomarine as well as their '06 collection of watches.

Embassy at the Fort is the scene to be in on weekends, but I had only dined at their restaurant section. It was my first time at the dance-club area of Embassy. The club had a long queue and bouncers with arms the size of my thighs controlling the entrance. I'm glad Tim is the *ninong* of **Athena** so at least she is guaranteed a queue-less entrance when she gets to her swinging years.

Just Shop-aholic **Jenni Epperson** was a very lucky winner that evening. She won the grand raffle prize: Reef Technomarine Eyewear. I was in Thaksin-mode at first if she truly won fair and square and not because of her tightness with Tim but Mia confirmed that she was really one lucky lady!

Charitable Brit

IWC, Techomarine and Swatch are among the impressive watch brands to be using these days, but don't splurge on yourself unless you also get involved with charity. Top of my list is Gawad Kalinga, a visionary housing and social development organization which aims to benefit millions of our less-fortunate countrymen.

Several years ago, my UST college classmate, **Rina Cinco**, introduced me to a single, young Brit millionaire who was so inspiring with his passion for helping under-privileged Filipinos. **Dylan Wilk** put me to shame for it seemed he had more love for our country than I had.

After that encounter, I was exposed to the many projects of GK and I was able to help sponsor a couple of houses through their various tie-ups, such as with the Rotary Club of Makati-Ayala and Assumption College. GK has become the best avenue to share either time or money to build better future lives for others.

At the spectacular Silk Cocoon fashion show of **Jean Goulbourn**, I bumped into the now-married Dylan. He told me he ended up marrying **Anna Meloto**, the girl who introduced him to GK who is also the daughter of its executive director, **Tony Meloto**. It's wonderful that Dylan's fate has settled him in this country and that he continues to inspire all.

Golf City launch

GK recently received a P20 million donation at the astonishing two-day launch of South Forbes Golf City. Ultra-generous Cathay Land CEO **Jeffrey Ng** presented the giant check to Tony at the grand launch hosted by statuesque beauty **Lucy Torres** and sexy hunk **Mark Nelson**. Prominent business mavens and personalities graced the super successful event at the NBC Tent at the Fort with no less than President **GMA** as the guest of honor. Even she was impressed at the amount of investment Cathay Land is putting up to build a new cosmopolitan section of Metro Manila.

Every table in the launch was filled, such that when my mom, **Marixi Prieto**, and I walked in, we were just squeezed into the presidential table. We all enjoyed a wonderful evening of musical performances by Apo Hiking Society, the Akafellas, **Bituin Escalante** and lots more.

Wine bliss

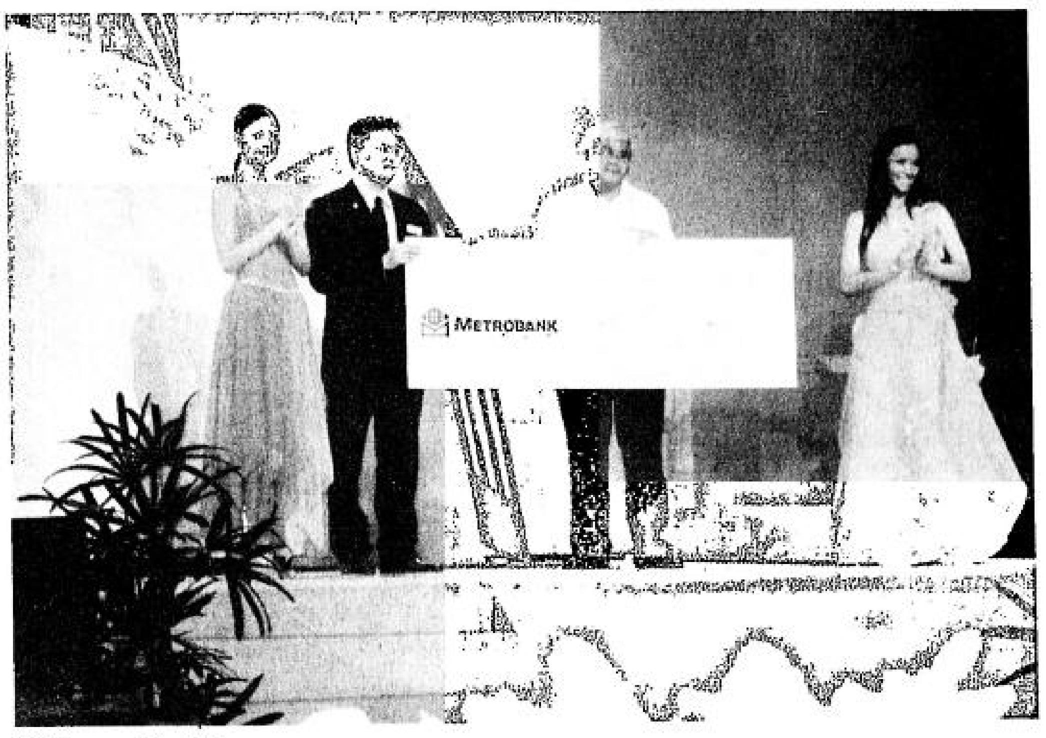
Of course, the dinner was of great interest to me. I seem to be continuously hungry, as I am still nursing my baby Athena. Even with my full-time breast-feeding schedule, I am somehow able to enjoy a glass or two of excellent wine. At the Bacchus-hosted lunch at Red at the Makati Shangri-La, wine connoisseur **Alex Lichaytoo** introduced me to Chateau Latour wine over a sumptuous full-course prime rib lunch.

From one of the great vineyards of the Bordeaux, Chateau Latour wines are on everyone's list of the Top Five best wines in the world. The wonderful 2002 and 2003 vintages are nice to drink even when young because the Cabernet grape has a bold structure and is very elegant to the palate.

Bacchus Wine Shops are found in all Shangri-La Hotels. The "Les Forts de Latour" made from the grapes of "young vines" are also available at a fraction of the price of their grand vin cousins. The 1995 and 1996 vintages are great with their wonderful round fruit and soft taste.

It's the first week of December and I have not even drawn up my Christmas list. I am thinking about buying 2005 wine "futures" as Athena's collection. Just think what these wines would taste like when I introduce her to the fine art of drinking wine in 20 years!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph



20 big ones for GK

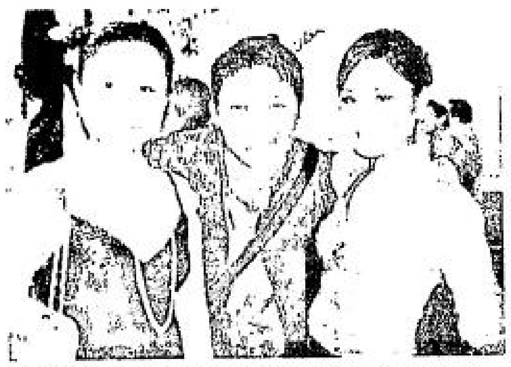
PDI's Marixi R. Prieto with Olivia, Vay and Jeffrey Ng of South Forbes Golf City.

LATOUR bon vivant Fredric Engerer

CATS' Felix Ang, Ivan Yao and Emy Arcilia

LUCERNE'S Emerson and Ling-ling Yao with the Sea Princess

L'OREAL'S Leica Carpo and Technomarine siblings Mia and Raffy Florencio


CHRONICLER JR Isaac with Stephanie and Angelique Villaraza

MANIX Pena, Johnlu and Alou Koa

BACCHUS' bacchanalians Clifford and Alex Lichaytoo

PRESIDENT GMA with GK director Tony Meloto, Ambassador John K.C. Ng and wife Olivia of South Forbes Golf City

IWC
AMG
IWC SCHAFFHAUSEN
ETIENNE de Gramont, IWC Asia Pacific managing director, the Sea Princess and Ivan Yao of Lucerne at ICW-AMG launch

VERNS Buckley and Atty. Mike Toledo

IWC
SCHAFFHAUSEN
CAT'S Motor's Felix Ang poses beside the new Ingenieur collection as Grogorio Yu admires IWC's latest family of timepieces.

CATCH Santa Claus at Shopwise this holiday season. Get a chance to have your pictures taken with him and win prizes in the store's Christmas promos.

Holiday cheers from Santa and his reindeer

SHOPWISE HYPERMARKET LAUNCHES TWO exciting promos this holiday season.

Pick a reindeer and win a prize, get snapped with St. Nick and receive a surprise.

Reindeer Picks is open to shoppers 18 years old and above. Every purchase of P1,200 worth of products single receipt, inclusive of P200 worth of products from sponsors, entitles customers to one reindeer card. A maximum of five cards will be issued per transaction regardless of amount purchased.

Each card has a corresponding prize that will be revealed by scratching off the silver-ink portion. Customers can win P10-P500 cash on the spot, and other items. Promo runs until Dec. 18.

With Shopwise's Picture Me Santa promo, shoppers can have their photograph taken with jolly old St. Nick for free. Santa visits Shopwise Alabang and Makati on Dec. 3 and 4, Araneta and Antipolo on Dec. 10 and 11, and Manila and Libis Dec. 17 and 18, between 2 to 8 p.m.

Customers should present receipts for purchases worth P500 made Nov. 1-Dec. 18 to the Picture Me Santa booths for the free photograph.

Shopwise is located at G/F Harrison Plaza Mall, Manila; M.L. Quezon Avenue cor. Circumferential Road, Antipolo City; G/F Festival Supermall, Alabang, corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Sts., Makati; E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Libis; and corner General Aguinaldo and McArthur Avenues, Araneta Center, Cubao, Quezon City.

CUSTOMERS have a chance to instantly win P10-P500 in cash.

SHOPPERS should check Santa's scheduled visit with the Shopwise branch nearest them.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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The Holidays are a time for togetherness and the gurgle of children's laughter. Sadly, countless families are being deprived of these joys by a killer – the traitor disease known as IPD.

Invasive Pneumococcal Disease or IPD claims the life of a child every minute. Close to a million babies are lost each year, many of them, less than two years old.

It strikes without warning. What may appear to be a simple cough can turn deadly in just 48 hours. Those who do survive suffer breathing disorders, mental retardation or deafness.

But, there is hope. Ask your doctor about the IPD vaccine. A little knowledge, and the gift of prevention by immunization are all it takes to protect your child from this traitor. Protection he will have for many years – and many Christmases – to come.

This Christmas, the greatest gift you can give your child is long-term protection from IPD.

Ask your doctor about the IPD vaccine.

ipd
Invasive pneumococcal disease

☐ Yes, I want to know more about IPD. Please send me more information.

Name:____________________

Address:____________________

__________Contact Number:__________

Kindly cut and fax to 8846780
or send to Pharma Division,
Wyeth Philippines, Inc.
2236 Chino Roces Ave.,
Makati City 1200

Give the gift of a thousand choices

ACCEPTED HERE
A gift of over 1,000 choices
AYALA MALLS
eGC
BPI

AYALA MALLS EGC IS THE ANSWER TO ALL your gift-giving woes.

"Gift-giving is a gesture of acceptance, kinship and reward," says Miriam O. Katigbak, executive vice president and group head of the Commercial Centers Group, Ayala Land Inc., explaining the concept behind the Ayala Malls eGC. "We saw the need for a gift card that will address not only these emotional aspects of giving but also those who seek convenience, practicality and flexibility. The Ayala Malls eGC is a prepaid gift card designed for those in search of the most appropriate or perfect gift without the unnecessary worries and anxieties."

Convenient and handy, the eGC is available in denominations of P500, P1,000, P2,000, P3,000, and P5,000, and honored in over 1,000 establishments across all the five Ayala Malls. This includes department stores, supermarkets, specialty stores, restaurants, beauty salons, bookstores and more. The cards are valid for one year.

What's more, it is powered by BPI, the recognized leader in cutting-edge financial and electronics technology. This arrangement gives shoppers wider acceptance since it can be used in any of the BPI affiliated stores in the Ayala Malls—Glorietta and Greenbelt, Alabang Town Center, Market! Market! and Ayala Center Cebu.

Getting an Ayala Malls eGC is easy. Just order through the customer service booths in all the five Ayala Malls or through customer service hotlines 7527324 to 25 (Glorietta and Greenbelt); 8422782/7721860 (Alabang Town Center); 8867519 (Market! Market!); and (032) 2320380 (Ayala Center Cebu).

Book a room, help a kid

DISCOVERY SUITES AND DISCOVERY Country Suites invite you to spread holiday cheer and share your blessings with the Wish Kids of the Make a Wish Foundation (MAWF).

From now until Jan. 15, bookings of the Christmas 3 Package at Discovery Suites and Local Residents Package at both properties will automatically mean a donation in the guest's name to MAWF.

Guests will get a card for hanging in the hotel lobby Christmas Tree and a token upon checkout.

Discovery Suites has been participating in outreach programs like adopting a school in Sagad, Pasig, in 2002, and working with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) since 2003.

More than 3,000 students from Sagad Elementary School have benefited from the hotel's feeding programs, medical missions, and renovation of facilities. The hotel donates 30 percent of sales of whale, dolphin and turtle beanie dolls to WWF. This month's featured beanie doll is Terry the Turtle. This year, Discovery Suites aims to grant the wishes of three Wish Kids who, with some members of their families, will be invited to attend some hotel activities in December. Call 6838222.

DISCOVERY Suites to grant the wishes of three Wish Kids

TIME MANAGEMENT JUST GOT EASIER AT THE SAN LORENZO TOWER

6:30 pm and you're still stuck in your board meeting, reviewing financial projections for the next quarter. Your mobile phone is blinking incessantly. You're sure it must be your girlfriends, all excited about the night-out at Nuvo you've been planning for weeks. Or it could be your Mom too, waiting for the bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon you promised to bring home for dinner, if only to make up for all the family dinners you've missed these last two weeks.

At The Residences at Greenbelt's San Lorenzo Tower, that will never be a problem. No need to take the long drive to have a quiet dinner with Mom and Dad at home, or drive out afterwards to have a night-out at your favorite night spot with friends.

Because it's right in Greenbelt, your home is now right in the center of both work and play. And since all the fanciest restaurants, the hippest bars and the coolest night spots are already there, you can stay out as long as you want without having to worry about driving back home, especially after that last Frozen Margarita. It's the closest thing to being at three places at the same time.

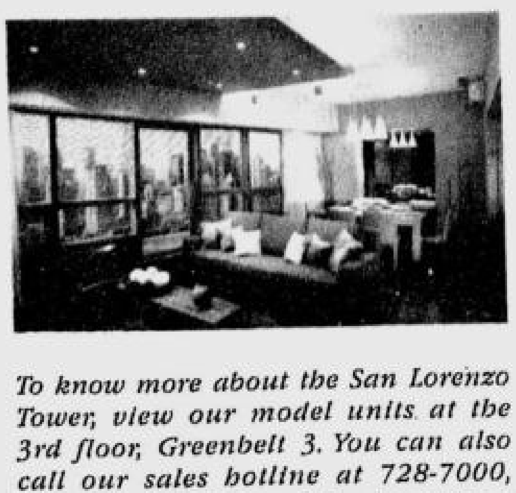
At the San Lorenzo Tower, everything you can possibly need is just within arm's reach. So go ahead, have your duckquitos in Good Earth or walk down the row to Bizu for your dessert. Have a drink or two with friends at Nuvo. And still get to surprise Dad waiting home, with his favorite cappuccino from Figaro.

There's the Ayala Museum just around the corner for that much-needed whiff of art and culture, or the Greenbelt Park right across for relaxation amidst the greenery and fountain. There's also the Greenbelt Chapel for quiet moments for prayer and meditation, or for the simple enjoyment of watching the fish pond and ducks.

You can even see all these right from the comfort of your own luxurious two-bedroom unit at the San Lorenzo Tower. Soaring to a height of 195 meters, comprising 57 floors, the San Lorenzo Tower offers an unhampered view of Greenbelt and the dynamic and ever-changing Makati skyline on one side and the idyllic greenery of the San Lorenzo village on the other, all the way to the south.

Such is the respite and ease offered by the San Lorenzo Tower at The Residences at Greenbelt. It's where work-life balance just became much easier.

The Residences at Greenbelt is an offering by Ayala Land Premier, the largest real-estate development company for high-end residences and carefully master-planned developments. Ayala Land's commitment to excellence and exclusivity unquestionably makes it the address of choice.



To know more about the San Lorenzo Tower, view our model units at the 3rd floor, Greenbelt 3. You can also call our sales hotline at 728-7000, e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph, or visit www.ayalaland.com.ph .

Dinner with Mom & Dad. Drinks with the gang at Nuvo. Time management just got easier with our new unit at the San Lorenzo Tower at the Residences at Greenbelt.

Big enough for Mom, Dad and myself. Near enough to Miguel's and my favorite night spots. It's the closest thing to being in two places at the same time.

The perfect place for your perfect story. The new San Lorenzo Tower at The Residences at Greenbelt.

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AT GREENBELT

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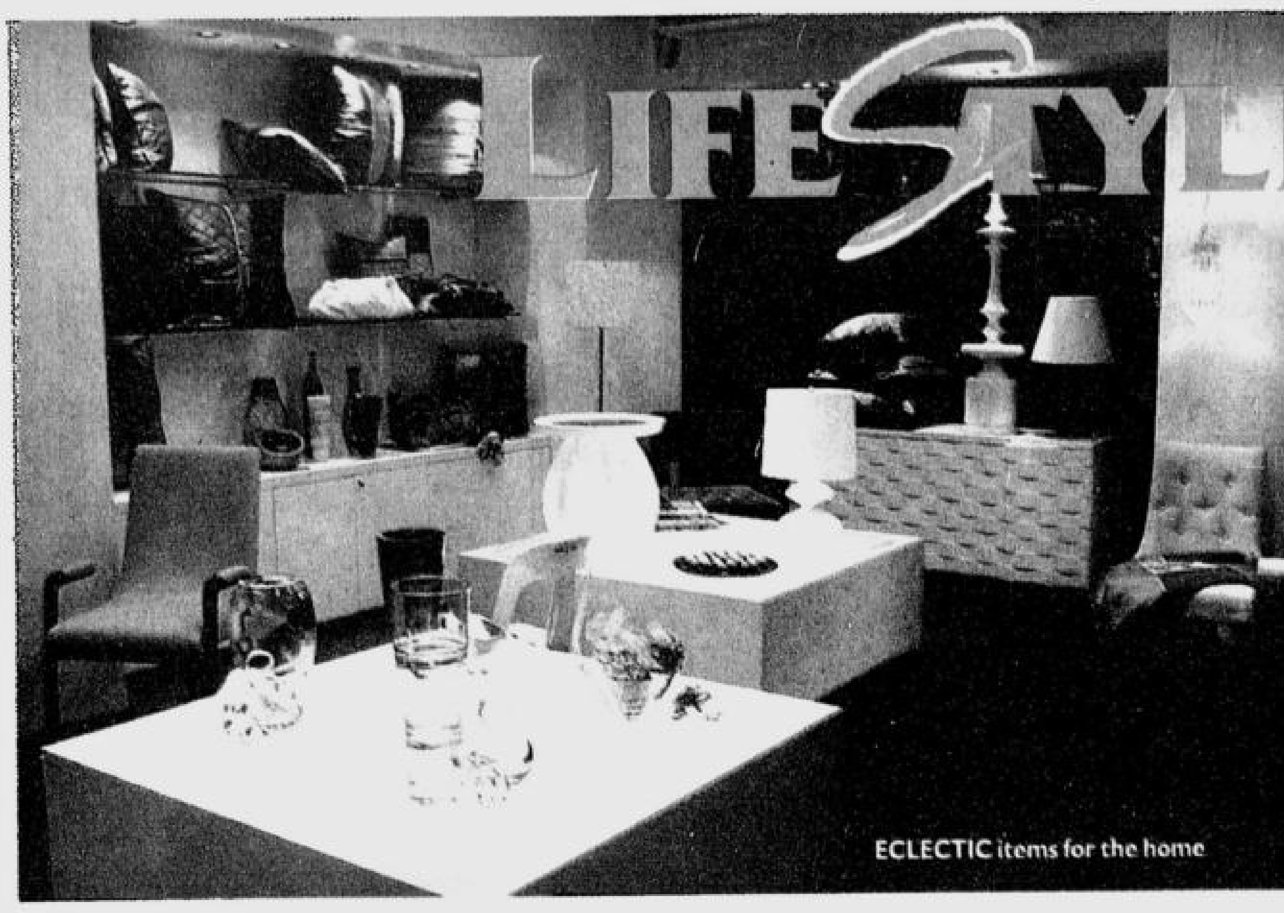
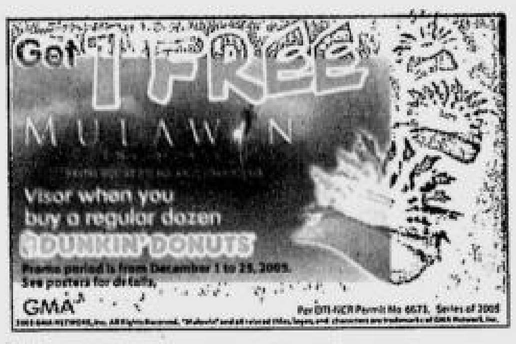


ECLECTIC items for the home



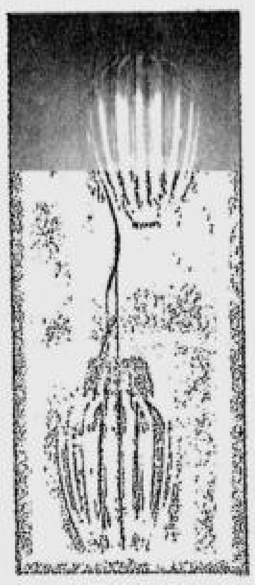
Get 1 FREE MULAWIN Visor when you buy a regular dozen DUNKIN' DONUTS
Promo period is from December 1 to 25, 2005.
See posters for details.
GMA
Per DTI-NCR Permit No 6673, Series of 2005

New twist to retro

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

MINIMALISM AND contemporary Zen have been out of style for several seasons now, but not a few homeowners are still holding on to one or both looks. It's for this reason that sisters Sheila Romero and Trisha Bermudez named their latest venture, a home store on Jupiter Street in Makati, Beyond Bamboo.

NEW/ G2



SERIEN lights from Germany

Cozy suburban living at

Verdana Homes Mamplasan

In today's fast-paced and modern world, the need to create a harmonious and balanced life has become more important than ever, along with the desire to forge more meaningful relationships with the people in our lives. Families – early nesters in particular – have increasingly begun to prefer cozy neighborhood settings over the impersonal atmosphere of large villages. Young couples welcome the idea of forging lifelong friendships with like-minded peers, while parents would appreciate having trusted neighbors keep an eye on their kids during play dates, study sessions, or emergency runs to the nearby grocery.

On top of these, young professionals and families place significance on considerations such as the neighborhood's proximity to schools and business districts. Plus, access to leisure areas such as movie houses and even weekend resort getaways are taken into account when investing in a new home and a new neighborhood.

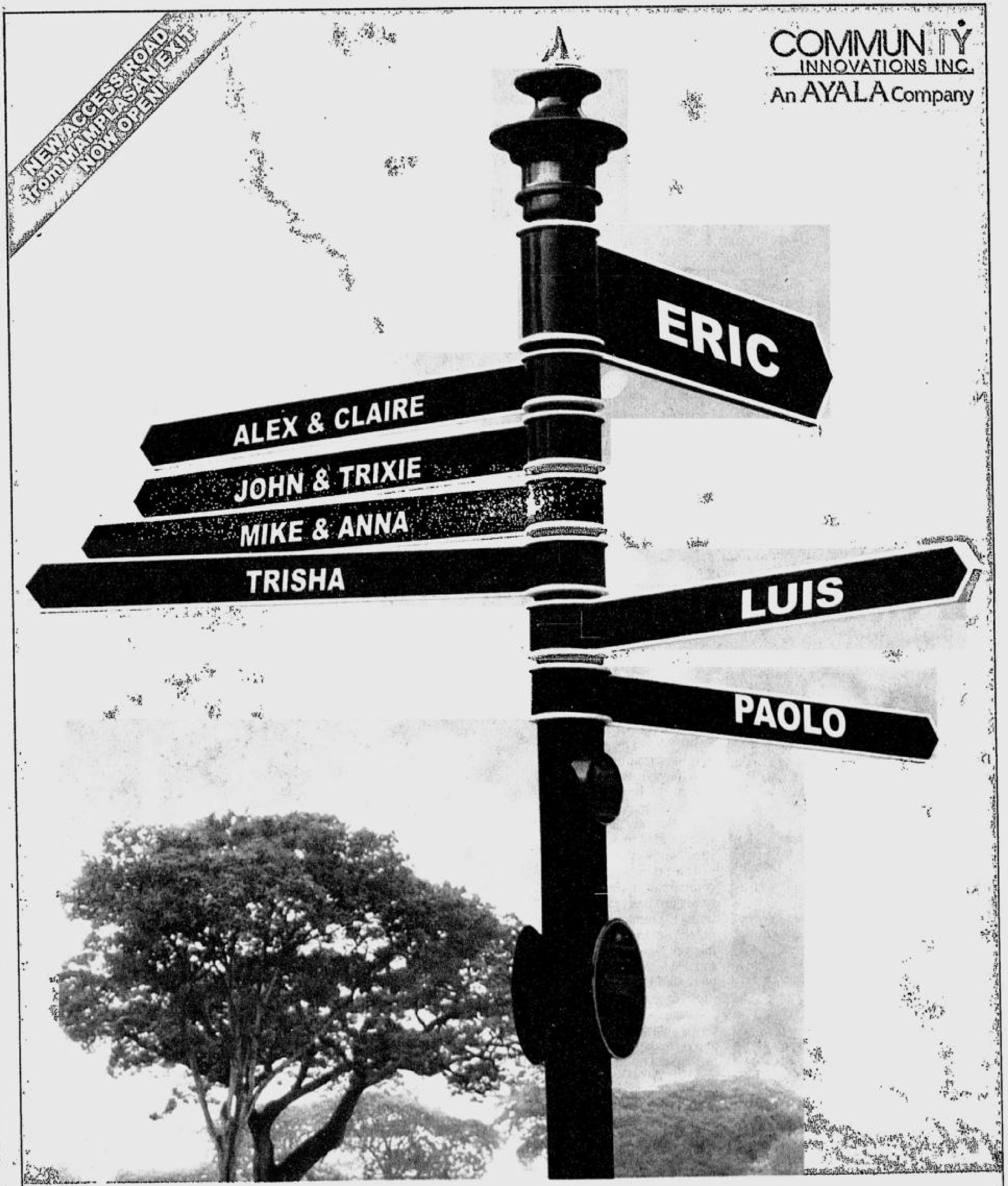
Nestled in the secluded suburban environment of Biñan, Laguna is one such community, a place where everybody knows each other's name and everything important is secure and within walking distance. Verdana Homes Mamplasan is a 35-hectare gated enclave that fosters recreational leisure and friendly interaction among like-minded individuals. Cozy residential clusters encourage close relationships with neighbors, while the two-hectare Central Park is the perfect setting for many enjoyable afternoons with newfound friends.

With Community Innovations' recent unveiling of its model homes, potential homeowners can now get a glimpse of the cozy suburban lifestyle that Verdana Homes Mamplasan has to offer. Each model home is designed with a growing family's needs and aspirations in mind. The model units, for example, allow living and storage areas that can be easily modified to accommodate welcome additions to the household, as well as suit increasingly sophisticated tastes. Further, this ideal-sized development also offers the advantage of worry-free maintenance, with an expert property management team and round-the-clock security staff on hand to ensure that residents feel comfortable and safe within and outside their homes.

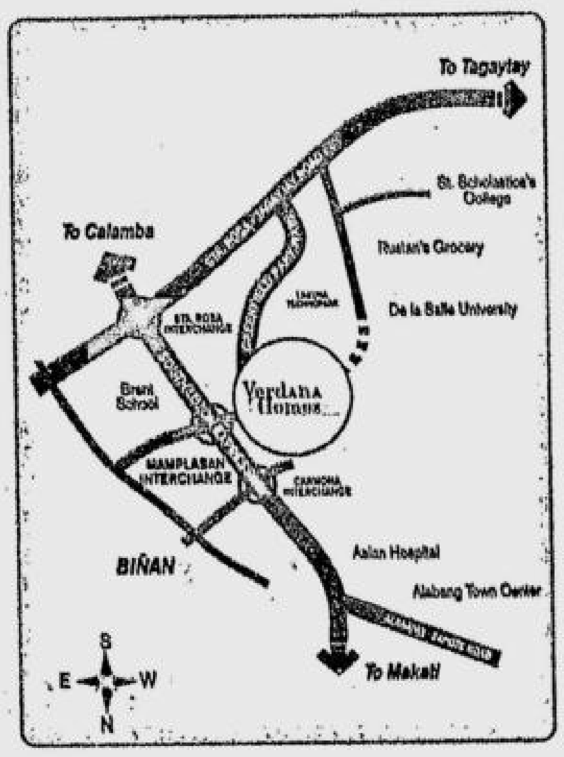
Verdana Homes Mamplasan is a few minutes away from business and industrial hubs, commercial districts and educational institutions, even popular leisure destinations. The community is easily accessible from the Mamplasan Exit of the South Luzon Expressway, via an exclusive access road for residents of Verdana Homes Mamplasan.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers. For more information on Verdana Homes Mamplasan, call 888-0000 or email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph. Inquiries may also be made at www.verdanamamplasan.com.ph, or at the Verdana Homes Mamplasan sales booth in Alabang Town Center

With spacious interiors designed to meet a young family's needs Verdana Homes Mamplasan puts a premium on cozy suburban living both in the houses' and subdivision's design



COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company



Know your neighbors on a first-name basis.

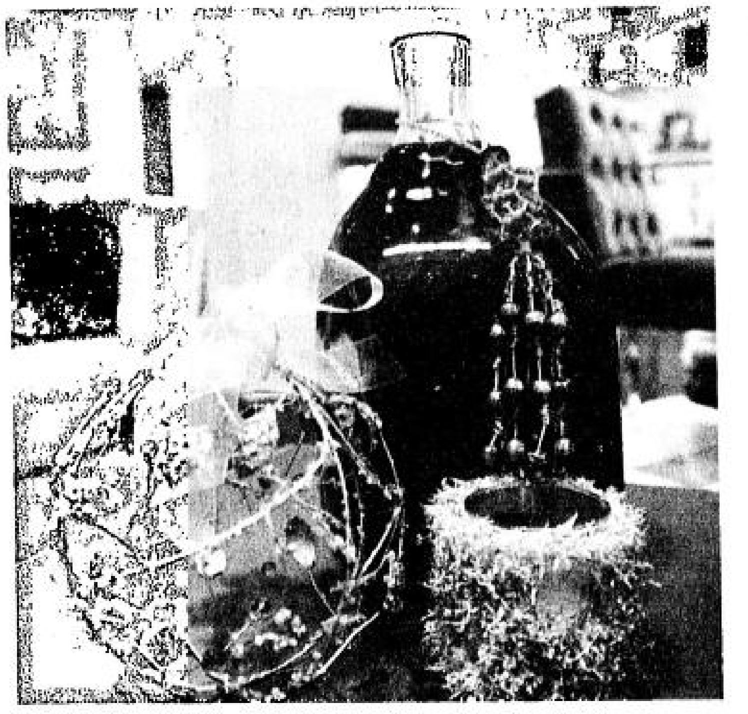
At Verdana Mamplasan, it's so easy to get close to your neighbors that you'll soon find yourself identifying streets by the names of your friends who live along them. Helps especially when your kids suddenly say "We'll be over at Tito Mike's." You'll know instantly they're going somewhere near and reassuringly safe. That's what Verdana Mamplasan is all about. The walkways are plentiful, the amenities are all walking-distance, the security is second to none, and the neighbors are, well, truly neighborly. Inquire now.

Verdana Homes mamplasan

Call 888-0000 or visit us at www.verdanamamplasan.com.ph
e-mail: cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph

PEAR of a container

TASSELS and throws

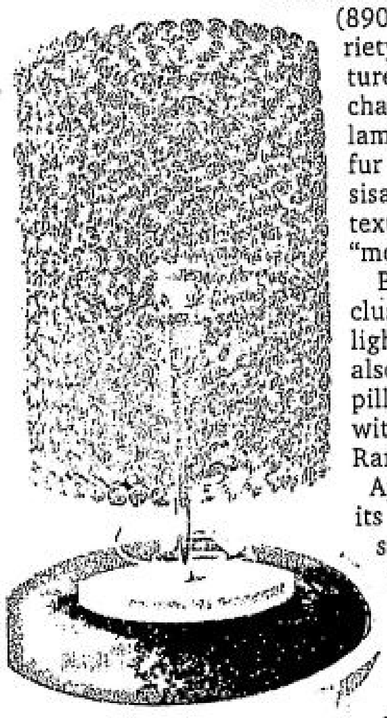

YULETIDE décor to light up a room

CAND
wire ac

New twist to retro

Beyond Bamboo reworks the old Zen minimalist looks into something fresh

From page G1


ONE-OF-A-KIND lamp

Located on the second floor of Doña Consolacion Bldg., Beyond Bamboo (8908191/8907680) features a variety of local and imported furniture and accent pieces—from chairs to cabinets, scented candles, lamp shades, giant silk tassels, faux fur throws, curtain materials and sisal rugs—that exude the colors, textures, styles and shapes of "modern-retro."

Beyond Bamboo is also the exclusive distributor of the Serien lighting system from Germany. It also has a place of honor for throw pillows made of crushed Thai silk with velvet trims designed by Randy Ortiz.

Apart from the stuff displayed in its modest showroom, the home store, which opened barely two months ago, also does custom-made furniture. It also provides interior-design services to interested clients.

"It's our way of introducing our brand of modern-retro," says Romero. "Throu
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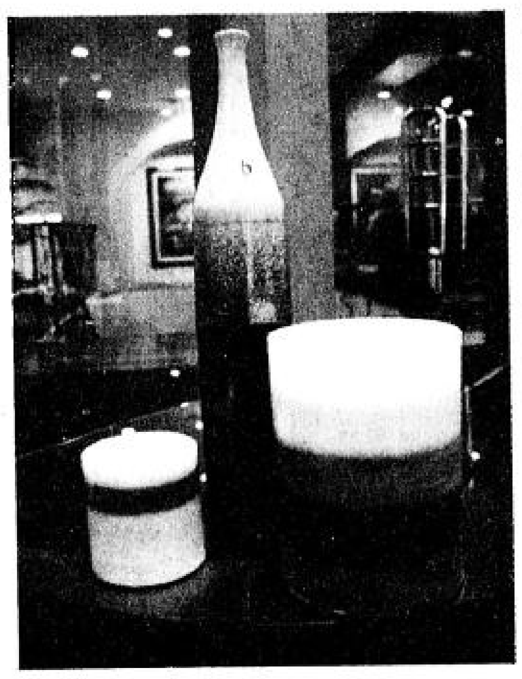

SCENTED candles in various sizes

TRISHA Bermudez and Sheila Romero

Cross-cultural pottery

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido

IMPORTED clay has given these bells a higher pitch.

BARANGAY BULUA HAS ALWAYS BEEN Cagayan de Oro's main source of pottery items. Almost every household in the community has a tradition of pottery-making.

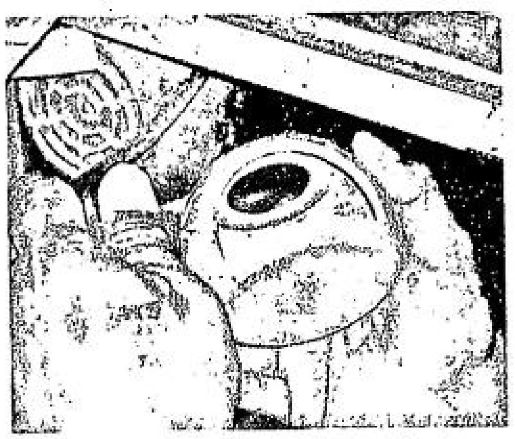
A few years ago, the city's Chamber of Commerce brought a German consultant to introduce some fresh ideas to an old enterprise. Not only did Clemens Wirth consult, he also decided to open his own ceramic factory in Bulua.

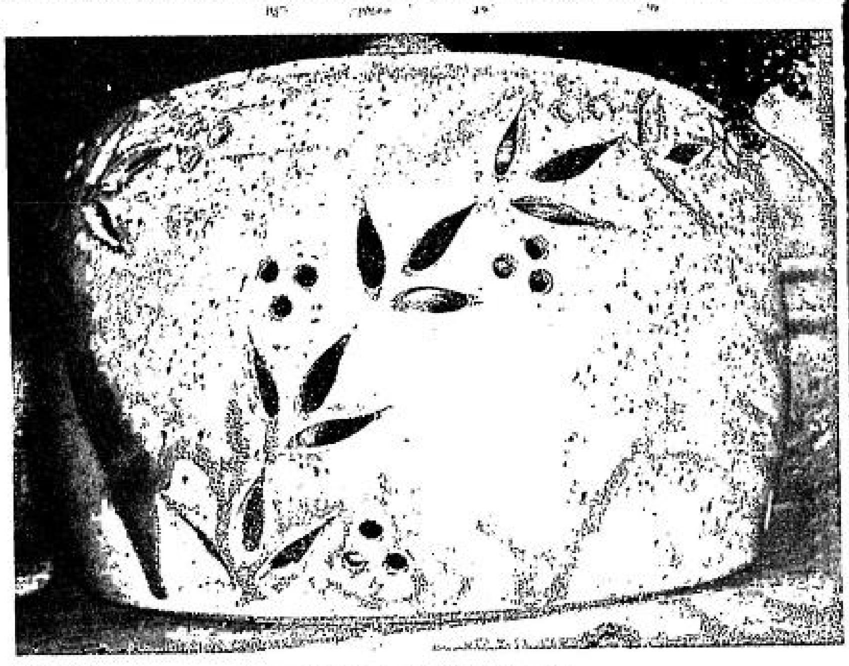
The Stoneware Pottery Inc., which has a counterpart in Germany, Töpferei Wirth, currently produces tableware, kitchenware, decorative ceramics and corporate gifts, among others. But unlike other pottery makers in Bulua, the factory uses clay imported from Europe, which makes the handmade ceramic pieces more durable for microwaves, conventional ovens and dishwashers.

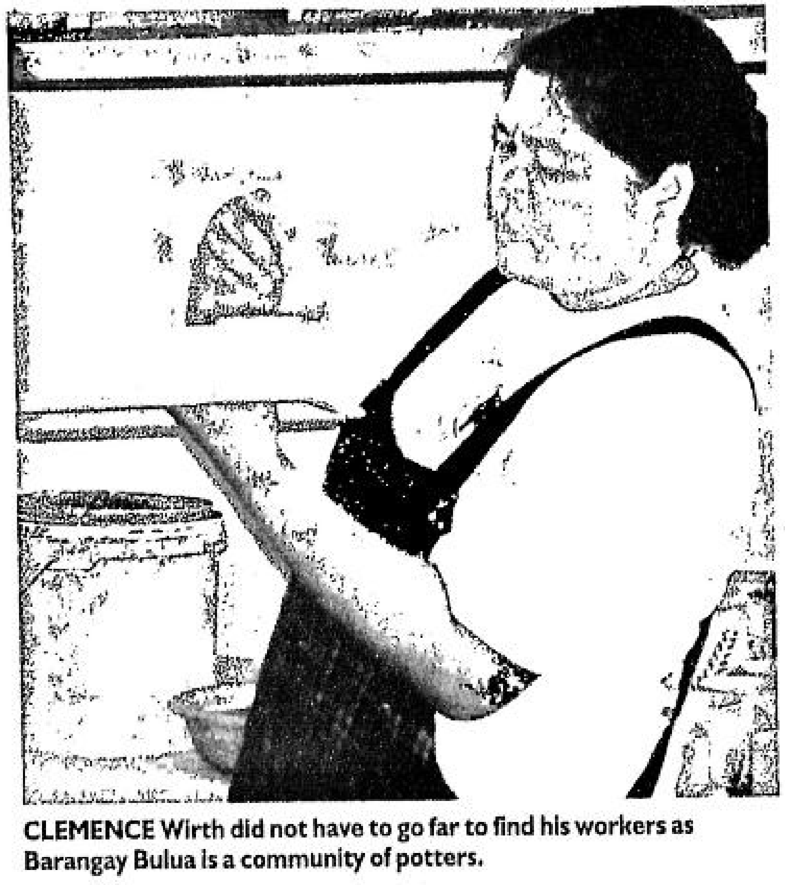
Manager Imelda V. Elcano says European clay is able to withstand higher firing temperatures, making the finished product less brittle than the traditional pottery made in Bulua out of local clay. Some of the items, like mugs, are also made so thinly and even have a metallic sound that may mislead one into thinking they are made of tin.

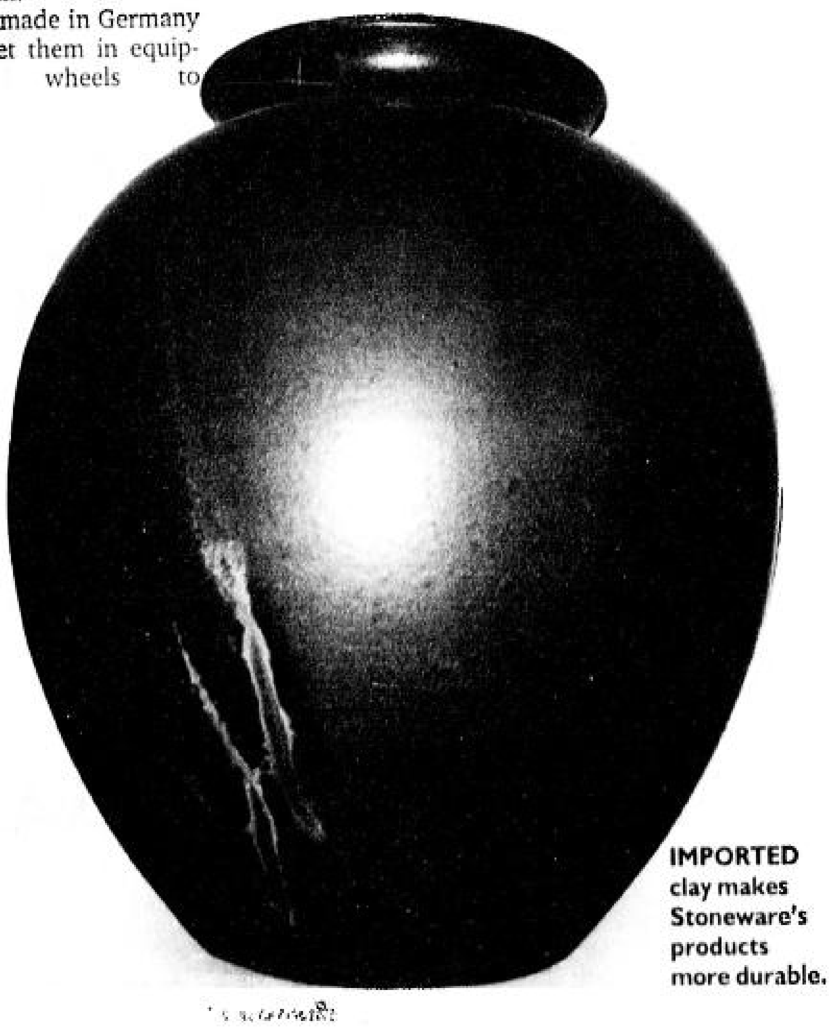
Elcano says designs are made in Germany and local artisans interpret them in equipment—from molding wheels to kilns—brought in from the same country. The factory currently employs 13 people, and its output is distributed almost equally between local and foreign buyers, mainly five-star hotels, fine-dining restaurants and high-end homes.

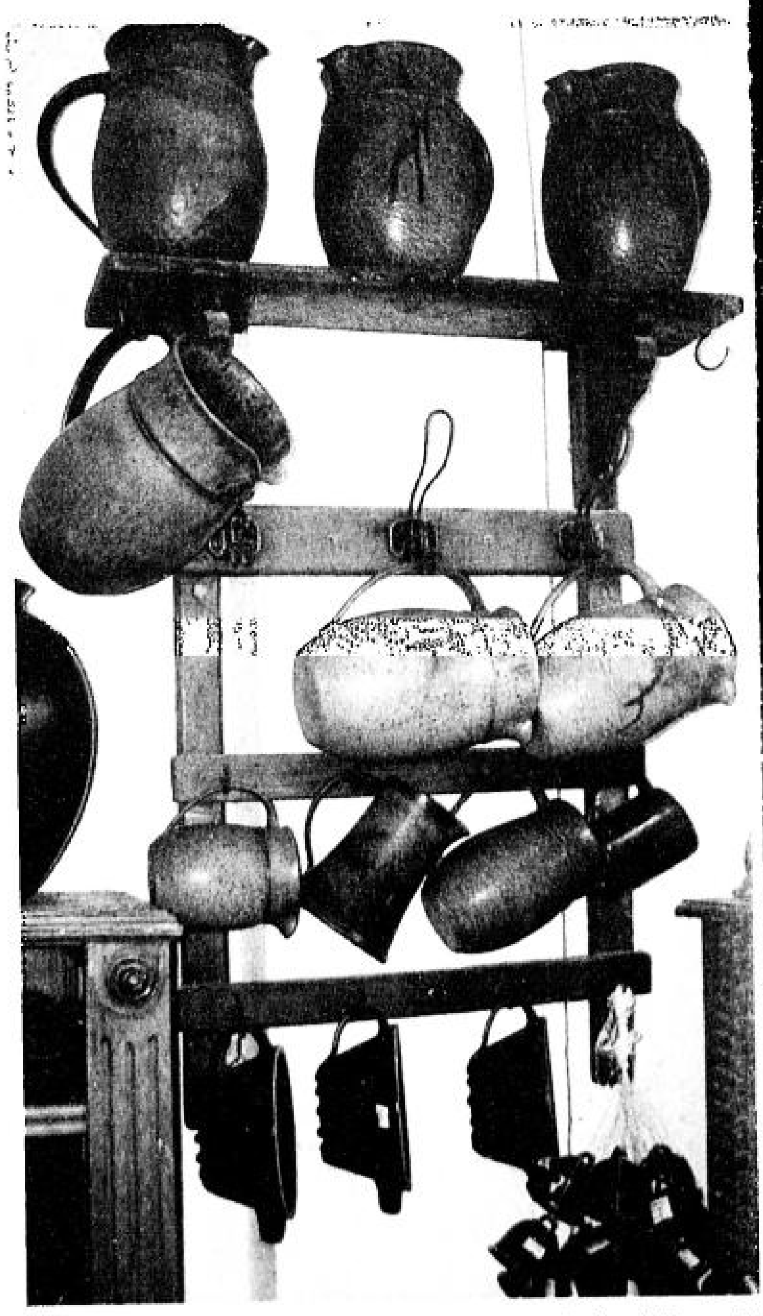
Business is most brisk just before the Christmas season. In fact, the factory has started shipping Christmas orders these days even as it also imported some dinnerware to fill the demand from local buyers.


EVERY piece at Stoneware Pottery Inc. is handmade.


BULUA artisans work on designs made in Germany.


CLEMENCE Wirth did not have to go far to find his workers as Barangay Bulua is a community of potters.


IMPORTED clay makes Stoneware's products more durable.


HOTELS and fine-dining restaurants are among the local clients of the company's products like mugs, pitchers and plates.

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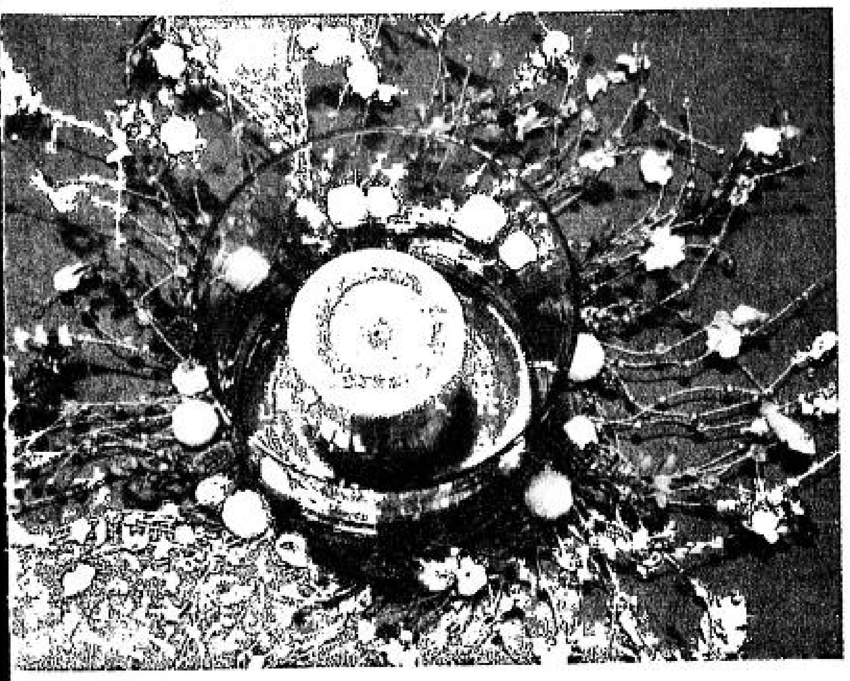

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udez, an interior designer.
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o pieces

oo, for instance, carries
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as, Bermudez tweaked the
way that they don't appear
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hey have slimmer silhou-
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. Instead of antique-look-
rmudez made use of stain-
inimized the shine by hav-
med.
ainless steel is also an at-
way from the *kahoy-kahoy* (wood) look," she adds.

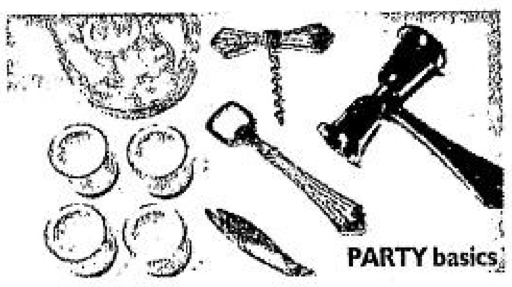
In lieu of a glass top, Bermudez used black leather on a wooden accent table. She streamlined a vintage-looking buffet table that doubles as a china cabinet for a more contemporary feel.

Beyond Bamboo is also a tribute of sorts to Romero's penchant to shop. Since she has the eye and the stamina to spot useful but unusual objects, she put such "talent" to good use by filling the home store's shelves with various gift items such as leather-bound and acid-free photo albums, *capiz*-framed mirrors, glass vases, candleholders, corkscrews and even brooches.

"Since I travel a lot, I might as well do clients a favor by shopping for them," says Romero with amusement.

To keep the display from becoming predictable, the sisters plan to regularly update their merchandise and come up with particular themes. Come January, Beyond Bamboo will feature European-inspired furniture and accent pieces. It will also introduce a line of vintage-inspired wallpaper (yes, it's back!) under the brand name Florence Broadhurst, an Australian brand. Modern-retro has never been this cool.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



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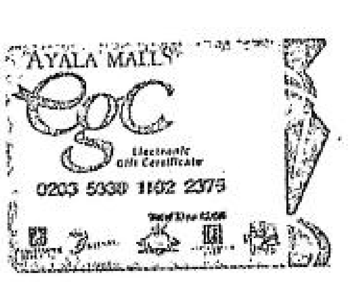

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Informal bash for gourmets and gourmands

TERESING Mendezona, Michel Lhuillier, Tony Lozada and Cecilia Rodriguez

JOHNNY and Anna Marie Dizon with Mariter Klepp

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

LA CHAINE DES ROTISSEURS' CEBU chapter had an informal bash recently with the theme "Blue Jeans and a Touch of Orange." Led by **Madame la Baili Amparito Lhuillier** and **Michel Lhuillier**, who is head of the related organization L'Ordre Mondial des Gourmets Degustateurs, everyone complied.

Setting was the Marriott Hotel. Originally they planned a poolside party, but after GM **Karl Hudson** consulted the Pagasa oracle who predicted rain, he promptly decreed a transfer to the grand ballroom.

The hall was festooned with orange silk. The better to accommodate some 80 people who signed up for the dinner. There were long, long tables. Yes, draped in orange satin, and gleaming with silver cutlery, crystal, what-have-you. What else was there? Scintillating company.

Executive chef **Robert Lilja** whipped up quite a menu, and food and beverage manager **Dottie Wurgler** supervised the impeccable service rendered by an impressive array of liveried waiters. The best wines flowed. Too many calories? Not to worry, for dancing ensued and went on up to the crack of dawn.

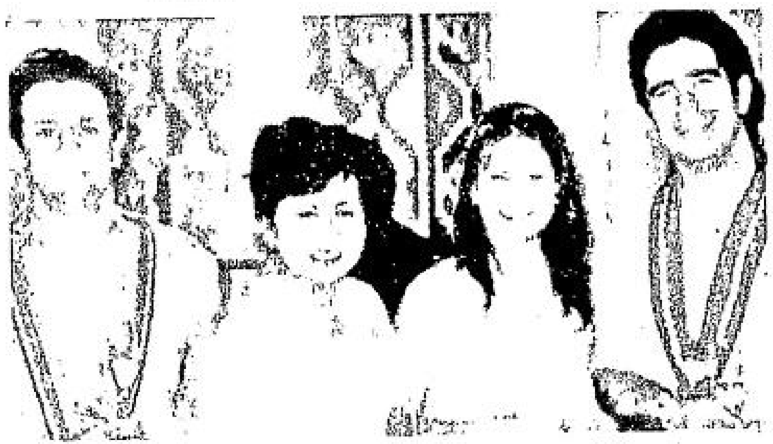
Margie Lhuillier, **Choy Sala** and an indefatigable bunch did not want to call it a night, and so went in search of more dancing. Rumor had it they ended up at Formo at the new Banilad Town Center.

Gourmets and gourmands who compose the Chaine and L'Ordre sets have more dates to look forward to. Next on tab for L'Ordre is the grand opening of Chez Lucie's at a new location. Owned by French business tycoon **Michel Marchand**, it's the finest French cuisine outlet in the south.

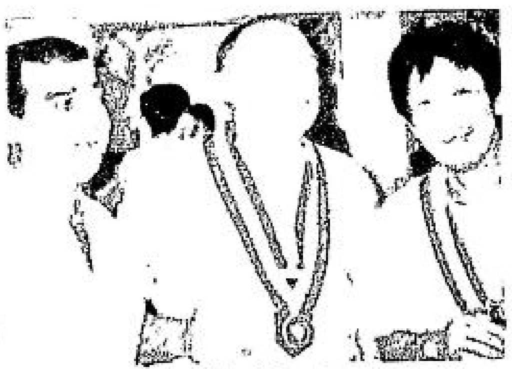
Then comes the grand formal dinner in December. Sixty La Chaine members snapped up the seats in just five days after notices were sent out. The dinner will be at the ballroom of the Shangri-la's Mactan Island Resort. GM **Tim Wright** has given it as theme Mozart's Magic Flute. Live music will be performed throughout the repast.

People are already asking about the February or March induction of officers and new members, which also promises to be as splendiferous as these events are getting to be.

THE MARRIOTT'S GM Karl Hudson, and Amparito Lhuillier, baili of La Chaine des Rottisseurs Cebu chapter



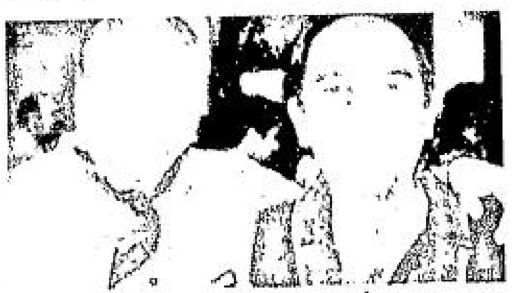
TOM Hines, Mila Demecillo, Rose Hennessy and Dondi Joseph



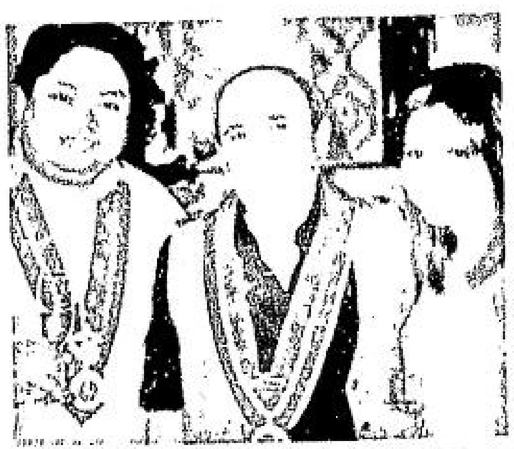
CARLO Spema, Michel Marchand and Winglip Chang

THE INCOMING GM of soon-to-be Marco Polo Plaza Cebu, Hans Hauri, and wife Bo Young Hauri

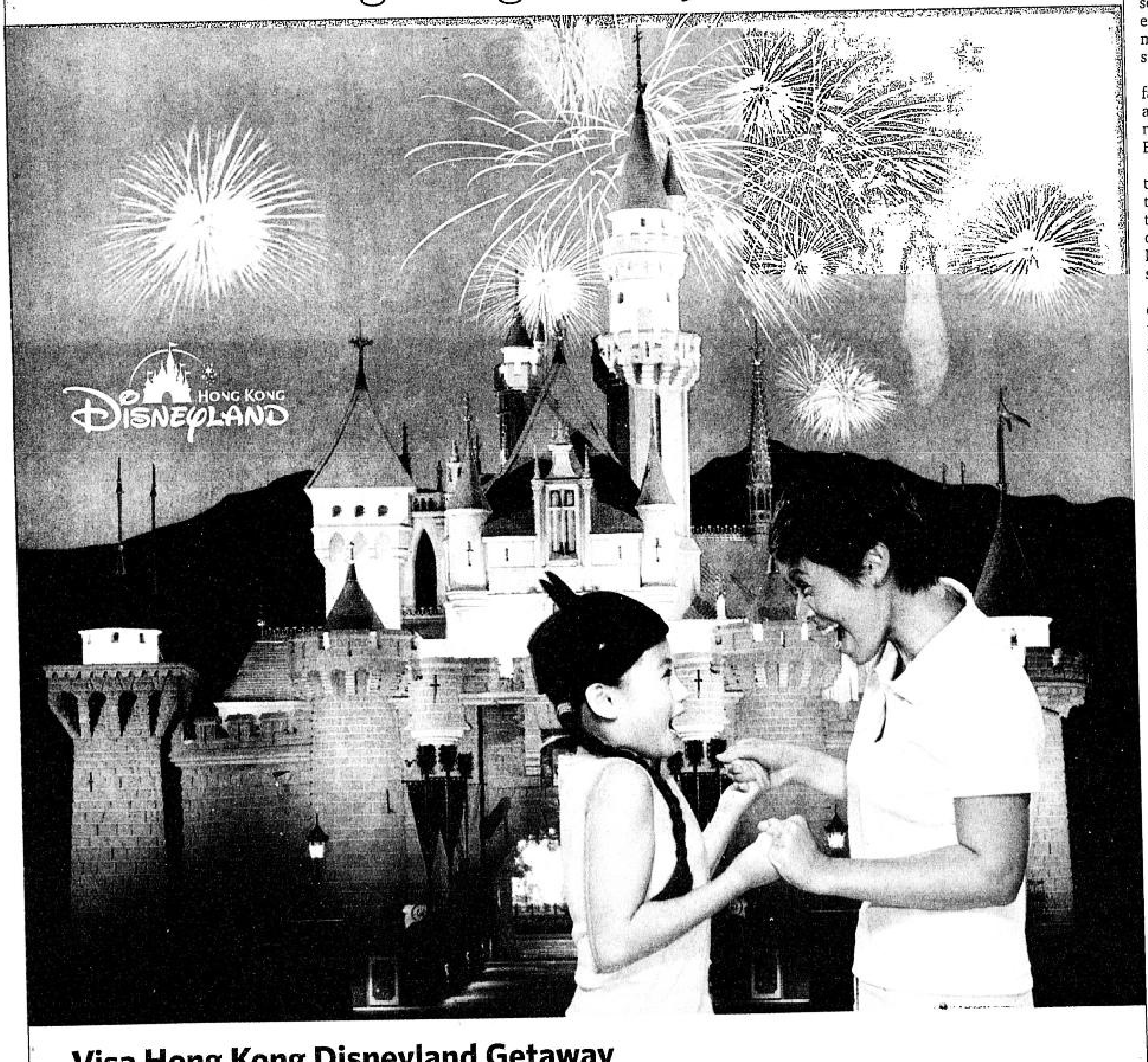
TIM and Mona Wright (seated) with Dottie Wurgler



LA CHAINE des Rottisseurs international delegate Fred Frank Fricke and Dr. Nestor Alonso



GABRIEL Palmer (center) with Joel and Karla del Prado



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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*

RECALDE-ZURBITO

Eric Recalde and **Marie Tanya Zurbito** will wed at 4 p.m., Dec. 10, at Basilica de San Sebastian, Quiapo, Manila. A Christmas-themed sunset reception will follow at the Coconut Palace, CCP Complex, Pasay City. Groom and bride, both lawyers, are the children of Mr. and Ms **Pedro Recalde** and Mr. and Ms **Adiotor Zurbito**, respectively.

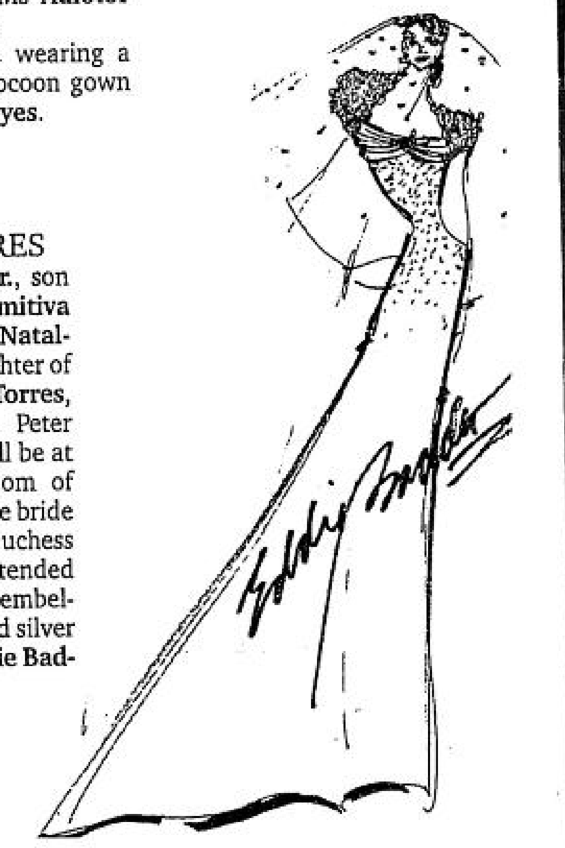
The bride will be wearing a hand-painted piña cocoon gown designed by **Veluz Reyes.**

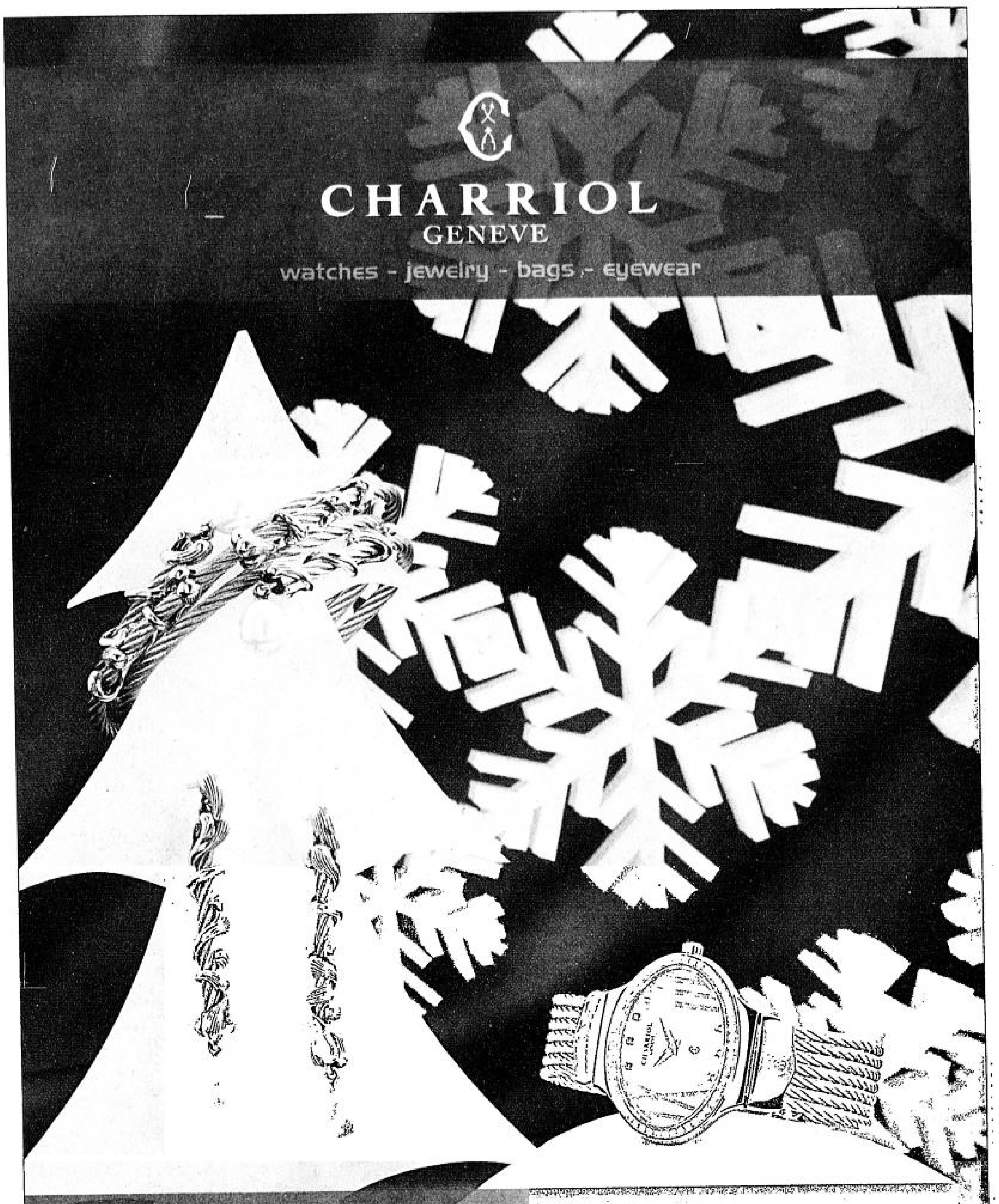
RAMIREZ-TORRES

Felipe Ramirez Jr., son of **Felipe Sr.** and **Primitiva Ramirez**, will marry **Natalie Jade Torres**, daughter of **Radito** and **Aida Torres**, on Dec. 9 at St. Peter Parish. Reception will be at the Champagne Room of the Manila Hotel. The bride will wear a white duchess satin and lace extended cap-sleeved gown embellished with white and silver caviar beads by **Eddie Baddeo.**

THOMPSON-RAMARA

John Lynn Thompson and **Marlene Lipana Magno Ramara** will exchange vows at 7 tonight, Dec. 4, at the Silver Pitcher Chapel, 9101 Robinson Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Reception follows at 7241 Deerberry Lane, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.





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WITH DON McCollum, Marina Hansen Nicola, mother of the groom Emma Benitez Valeriano, Ike Ramos, Rowena Aquino, Ted Cromwell, and Leila Benitez McCollum

THE BRIDE with her entourage: bridesmaid Jhett Epp, matron of honor Regina Aquino-Richards, bridesmaids Tunting Cruz-Matters and Rosita Ramos

One couple, 3 matchmaking women

By Maurice Arcache

AT EXACTLY 2 P.M., ON A FAB AND beautiful cool afternoon with the chic The Ritz-Carlton Lake Las Vegas as romantic backdrop, vivacious and adorable globe-trotting pal of mine **Rose "Babydoll" Aquino**, the brilliant VP of WorldTravel BTI and daughter of the late Cong. and Mrs. **Rafael C. Aquino** of Sorsogon and Agusan, was escorted down the rose petal-strewn aisle by her talented stage actress daughter, gorgeously stunning beauty **Regina Aquino-Richards** to say "I do" with handsome and tres successful **Francisco Diestro Valeriano**, a hot shot with the prestigious Private Client Group of Morgan Stanley. He is the son of super fun **Emma Benitez Valeriano** of Bethesda, Maryland, and the late Gen. **Napoleon Valeriano** (the famous lovers of yesteryears, dahlings).

Blind date

Babydoll and Francisco met on a blind date in June last year in New York. They attended a black-tie dinner at Cipriani and watched **Tom Jones** sing "It's Not Unusual". The couple was set up by a mutual friend, **Jhett Epp**, who thought they had many things in common, since both were globetrotters, fun and easygoing, and had loads of energy—a perfect match!

Jhett was not the only one instrumental in bringing the two together. **Rosita Ramos**, Babydoll's sister, and lawyer **Tunting Cruz-Matters**, Babydoll's gal pal, also played matchmakers for this perfect couple, *palanggas*.

They were almost inseparable from the day they met. And, through long-distance calls and weekend flights around the United States to be in one another's arms, Babydoll of Atlanta, Georgia, and Francisco of New York City, quickly developed a deep love for each other.

They jetted around the world, from Puerto Rico to Ireland, and places in between. You name it, they went there, dahlings.

Surprise proposal

On Aug. 13, 2004 (Friday the 13th), Francisco flew to Atlanta to be with Babydoll for the weekend. But his proposal came as a complete surprise to Babydoll. He took a plastic bag from his briefcase. As she opened it, a Tiffany aqua box suddenly emerged. She stammered, "W-wait a moment... w-what is this?" Kneeling in front of her, he implored, "Darling, I'm asking you if you will marry me."

MR. and Ms Francisco Valeriano

She put her arms around his neck and kissed him repeatedly. He presented her the tiny Tiffany box. Now even more nervous, she opened it and found a dazzling three-stone engagement ring.

Once the date was set, the couple decided the wedding would be in the *trés* intimate Tuscany Garden of The Ritz-Carlton resort in Lake Las Vegas. The wedding invitation was very personal, containing a poem Francisco wrote to Babydoll during their courtship.

On the big day, Babydoll looked absolutely radiant in a simple, elegant ivory silk gown designed by **Ralph Lauren** no less, with a floor-length veil with three layers of ivory tulle, and **Vera Wang** stilettos.

Francisco looked dashing in his four-button evening suit. The color motif was old rose for all bridal attendants, and the floral arrangements consisted of star-gazer lilies, and red, pink, and mauve roses.

All in the family

Close *famille* members and pals joined the wedding entourage, *palanggas*. Babydoll's daughter, **Regina**, recently married to **Robert Richards** and expecting their first bundle of joy, was matron of honor. She wore a black and old-rose **Betsy Johnson** lace gown, while Francisco's super artistic daughter, **Allegra**, junior bridesmaid, wore an old-rose dress from Saks 5th Ave.

Bridesmaids were **Rosita Aquino Ramos**, Tunting Cruz-Matters and Jhett Epp, who all looked absolutely stunning. Cute flower girl **Natalie Fowler** was like a little fairy.

Francisco's closest pal, **Glenn Fong**, was best man and all his good-looking brothers, **Victor**, **Napoleon and Jed**, were groomsmen.

Mother of the groom **Emma Valeriano**, elegant in her *piña* gown, was escorted by their religious advisor, Fr. **Freddie Balinong**. Emma's super famous celebrity sister, **Leila Benitez McCollum**, and her husband **Don McCollum** jetted in from their elegant home in upscale Central Park, tp be *ninang* and *ninong*.

Other principal sponsors were the bride's socialite sister **Rowena Aquino**, who breezed in from Cosmo Manille; **Marina Hansen Nicola**; **Ike Ramos** and **Ted Cromwell**; and **Becky Aquino Bantug**, the designated reader during the ceremony.

The wedding reception followed at The Ritz-Carlton Grand Ballroom, where 120 invitees from around the globe dug into the superbly prepared fusion cuisine.

The couple's first dance was to the tune of "Dahil Sa Iyo." Babydoll changed into a black lace and tulle gown by **Lillie Rubin**, as the couple did the sexy Argentinean tango, loudly applauded by their guests, dahlings.

The wedding cake was a delicious three-tiered eye-catching cake from Manille decorated with handcrafted gum-paste star-gazer lilies and roses. It was made especially by sister-in-law **Byng Ayson-Aquino**, owner of Perfect-Match Flowers.

In one section of the ballroom was the dessert lounge with calorific but to-die-for pastries and sweets from all over the world. Champagne and other concoctions flowed throughout the evening, *palanggas*.

Entertainment was a mixture of live and recorded music. Led by the bride and groom, natch, the fun invitees rocked the dance floor until almost daylight.

After the honeymoon in the romantic town of San Miguel de Allende in Mexico, they now reside in Washington, DC.

Their first date was a black-tie dinner where they watched Tom Jones sing 'It's Not Unusual'

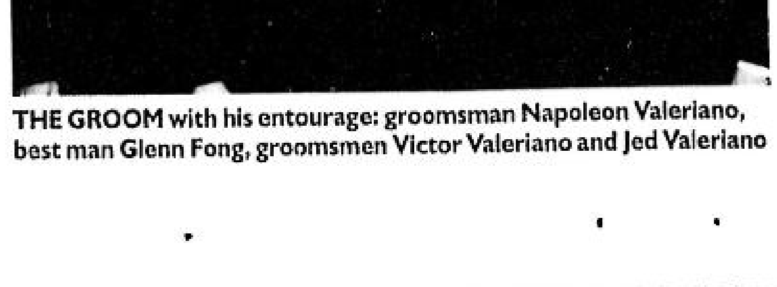
BABYDOLL with Regina Aquino Richards, Allegra Valeriano and Natalie Fowler

MICHAEL Aquino, Robert Richards and Arjay José

FR. FREDDIE Balinong, Emma Valeriano, Celia Donahue and Gary Vias

THE NEWLYWEDS with Vivian Banta and Robert Field

INSTEAD of the traditional wedding dance, the newlyweds do a sexy, mean Argentinean tango.



THE GROOM with his entourage: groomsman Napoleon Valeriano, best man Glenn Fong, groomsmen Victor Valeriano and Jed Valeriano

GLENN Fong, Allegra Valeriano, the bride, Regina Aquino-Richards; (back) Victor Valeriano, the groom, Rosita Ramos, Robert Richards and Tunting Cruz-Matters

FRONT: Max Ricketts and Edith Naldo Ricketts. Back: Junn Avenilla, Tessie Bantug, Ike Ramos, Carol Lim, Rosita Ramos and Annie Esmilla

Annual Immaculate Conception procession today

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

As early as 4 o'clock in the morning of the first Sunday of December every year, *carrozas* begin to arrive at Fort Santiago to be decorated with flowers for the procession at 4 p.m.

The Cofradia de la Inmaculada Concepcion, which has been organizing the grand Marian procession since 1979, accepts the *carrozas* through the help of the Intramuros Administration.

The *carrozas* are transformed into beautiful creations of flowers, leaves and candles, fitting offerings for Mary, mother of God, in her different titles. The more popular ones are Our Lady of Manaoag from Pangasinan; *Nuestra Señora Dolores de Turumba* from Pakil, Laguna; Our Lady of Piat from Cagayan Valley; Our Lady of La Salette from Silang, Cavite; Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal from Sucat, Parañaque; Our Lady of Soledad from Cavite City; Our Lady of Remedies from Malate Church; Nuestra Señora de Guia from Ermita Church; and Our Lady of Truth, Justice and Holiness from Parañaque.

The cast of the "Caysasay" play, together with producer Ramon Orlina and director Nestor U. Torre, will join the *carroza* of Our Lady of Caysasay from Taal, Batangas. The Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe will bring the icon to the procession.

OUR Lady of the Immaculate Conception

Immaculate Conception

The Cofradia, whose patroness is Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, exerts every energy to honor the Virgin on the first Sunday of December. Its members, headed by founding chair Imelda Cojuangco and president Aurora Eizmendi, are committed to this endeavor. For the past 25 years, Intramuros was lighted up by bulbs from *carrozas* being pulled down the streets. Tonight it will be the same.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines will lead the procession, in keeping with tradition of the military giving honor to the Virgin, Queen of Heaven and Earth, that began during the Spanish regime.

Sixty *carrozas* will light up Intramuros tonight. Those involved in the preparation are members of the *comite de festejos*: Ado Escudero, Clifford Chua, Alla Tengco, Jun Pablo and Deiy Arionday of the Intramuros administration. *Hermanos mayores* are Justa Tantoco, Bobby Novenario and Karen Macasaet.

Archdiocesan shrine

Novena Masses at 6 p.m. are ongoing at Ermita Church in preparation for the declaration by Archbishop Rosales of the Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish as an Archdiocesan Shrine at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 12.

Lady of Piat

Our Lady of Piat will be brought to the St. Paul College Chapel in Pasig for veneration Dec. 5-6. She will be returned to Tuguegarao on Dec. 7.

Priests needed

The ordination of four deacons in St. Peter's Cathedral in Tuguegarao City is a perfect culmination of the Eucharistic Marian Year, according to Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan. He says, "The Eucharist is the center of Christian life. Without priests, there is no Eucharist. For a good Christian life, we need priests."

COFRADIA de la Inmaculada Concepcion organizers: Aurora Eizmendi, Imelda Cojuangco, Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite, *hermanos* Bobby Novenario, Karen Macasaet and Justa Tantoco

Scheduled to be ordained at 4 p.m., Dec. 8, are: Rev. Lorenzo Lachica Marzo, EHM (Damortis, La Union); Rev. Marcus Sapa Desuyo, EHM (Negros Oriental); Rev. Rex Anthony Singson (Tuguegarao); and Rev. Elimar Pagulayan Abad (Solano, Cagayan).

New order

The new religious order Eucharistic Healers of Mary (EHM) was formed after a nine-year reflection by Archbishop Talamayan, who was chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Commission on the International Eucharistic Congress and Commission on Health Care.

He says, "Real healing comes from the Eucharist, who is Christ, who healed when He was here on Earth. The best advocate of healing is the Blessed Mother who, under the title Our Lady of Piat, had healed the people of Cagayan for the past 400 years."

The EHM will minister to sick priests and the elderly.

Gifts

Fr. Ben Villote is asking generous people to offer gifts from their table to the Center of Migrant Youth at 15 Goldman St., East Fairview Village, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City. Fr. Ben says, "In your next family market trip, please remember our Center for Migrant Youth (CMY). Include us in your shopping list. Perhaps, a piece or two of canned foods (sardines, corned beef), coffee, milk, sugar, cooking oil, rice, condiments, noodles, bath and laundry soap—anything you can afford to share with 22 migrant and street youths in our house."

And, if you have time, please join them for Simbang Gabi at 5 p.m., Dec. 17. The good news from Fr. Ben is: "We have 'graduated' at least five generations of CMYers who started as street bums—abandoned, lonely and hopeless. They have, nevertheless, strived to get up again to become seafarers, overseas workers, educators, professional drivers, computer technicians, small entrepreneurs and entertainers, among other trades."

Healing Mass

Fr. Diwane Cacao will hold a healing Mass at 6 p.m., Dec. 5, at the National Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Posadas Village, Muntinlupa City.

Mother Butler marks anniversary

MOTHER BUTLER Mission Guild (MBMG) celebrated recently its 50th anniversary.

The organization was founded by Clara Oben Corpus to provide poor Catholic churches and missions with liturgical vestments and sacred vessels and to help seminarians financially.

Corpus was searching for "an apostolate for women at home" 50 years ago when she was advised by Fr. Mitchell to visit Marymount College in Tarrytown, New York. She met Marion Dolan, an alumna who began the Mother Butler Mission Guild in memory of Mother Marie Joseph Butler, a religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary who taught students to sew vestments and altar linen for missionaries.

Corpus and seven friends started the first Mother Butler Mission Guilds chapter in the Philippines.

Today, the country has 55 chapters with about 3,000 members. The first chapter outside Manila was set up in Baguio in 1956. Currently, the Malolos, Bulacan chapter has the biggest membership, 400.

Corpus died in 2000.

Falling for a friend

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I'm a family man. I work in Makati and got close to a woman office mate simply by talking every hour mostly about our personal lives.

We started out as friends, but I feel the relationship is developing into something else. Although nothing intimate has happened between us, I know she feels something for me as well because of her actions, like holding my hand and so on.

She knows I am a married man and I know that falling in love with another woman is not right. I also know she dreams of getting married someday and getting out of the country to live with her daughter in the United States.

I really don't want to fall in love with her but it's so hard not to because we work in the same office. Every time I see her my heart keeps pounding. I like her to be a friend because she's fun, *kalog* and not a boring person.

My question is, can I keep things that way without telling her my true feelings while thinking that someday she will marry some other guy? I am hurting and I find myself crying like a fool because I cannot tell her I love her.

Should I retreat to a safe distance so I am not close to her?

QUIET GUY

You are married and working in an office. What in heaven's name are you doing talking to this woman every hour? Don't you have work to do or, wait—do you get any work done at all?

What personal stuff do you discuss with her? Do you have problems at home and you need her to be your sounding board? Are you unhappy with your wife? Or did you start becoming unhappy with your wife from talking with this office mate? Are you aware that the spark from this mild flirtation is becoming an emotional conflagration for you?

It appears this office mate is a single mother. Is she separated, widowed—or is the child the result of an affair? If it is the latter, this office mate then has a history of having her heart broken. She does not need a repeat of the experience with you.

Unless you are willing to go all the way with her—meaning, break up your family and marry her eventually—then quit while there's still time. Even wet grass cannot resist a raging fire.

Are you willing to break up your family for her? Is she worth it? Will she be able to sustain your interest when you are married to her?

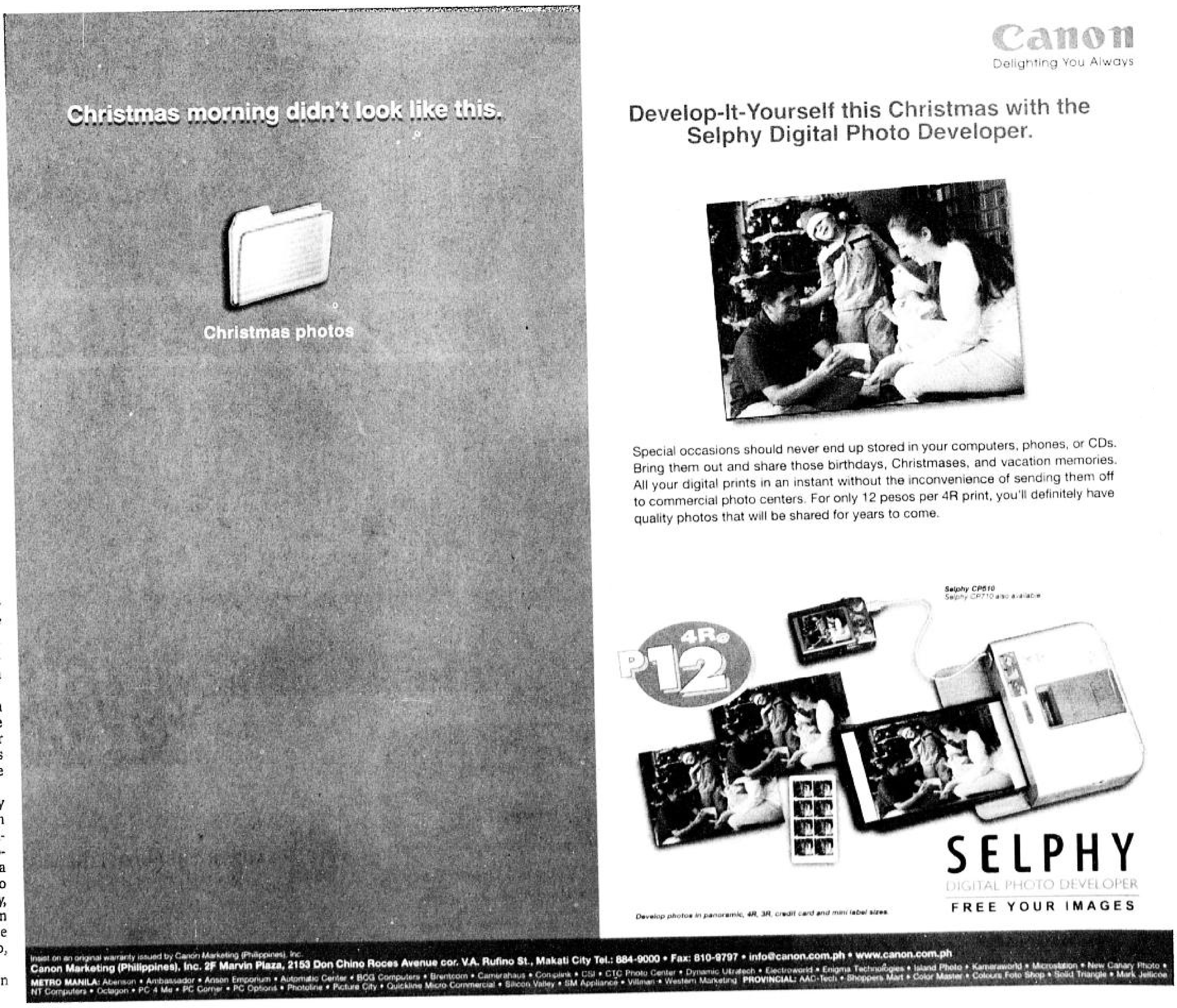
Of course you find her exciting and not at all boring. You don't live together! You don't share the worries about electric and water bills, tuition fees, medical expenses, mortgage payments, in-laws, maids, food prices. Your encounters with her, the talks and thoughts you share, seem to be in a fantasy world. Come down to earth with its tough, rough reality, and see if she will still be the fun, *kalog* and not at all boring person you are raving about.

If you cannot leave your family, do what you have to do to rid your senses of this craving for this office mate. Take cold showers, go out with the boys, go on a second honeymoon with your wife, pick up a hobby, request for a transfer to another office—anything. Thresh out your problems with your wife but please don't sell her short to others.

Your friend may just be a passing fancy for you, a diversion from an otherwise boring office and family life. You may also be a pit-stop for her, someone to keep her entertained as she cools her heels waiting for someone who can get her out of a seemingly dead-end existence. Who knows?

I am not raining on your parade. I just want you to have your feet firmly planted on the ground so you don't destroy lives because of your raging hormones. Your problem stems from propinquity. Look up the word.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante", 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.



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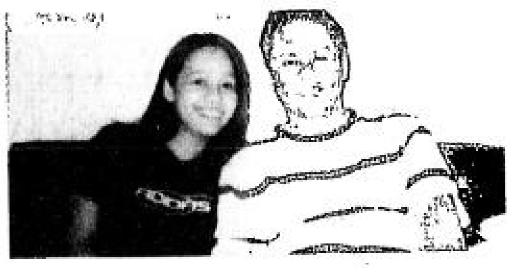


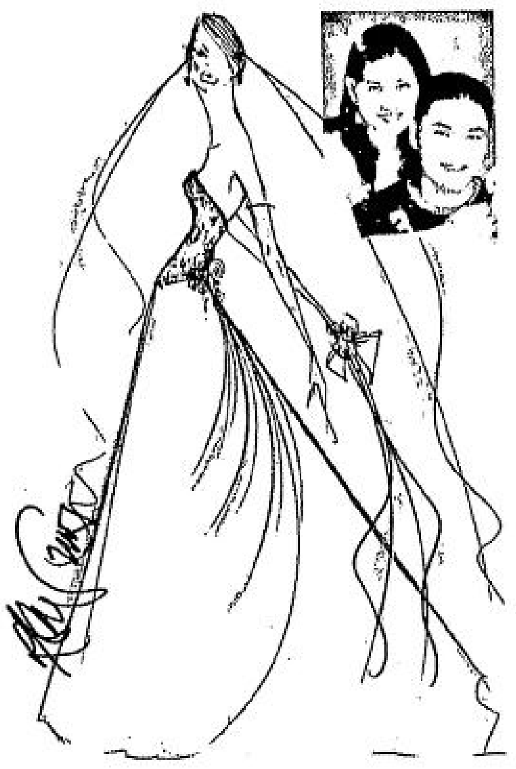
GUNDRAN-DE CASTRO

Lawyer **Peter Gundran**, son of **Pedro** and **Lagrimas Gundran**, will marry **Cherylle Ann de Castro**, daughter of **Minandro** and **Regina de Castro**, on Dec. 11 at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Quezon City.

Reception will follow at Casa Español in Quezon City.

RODRIGUEZ DEBUT

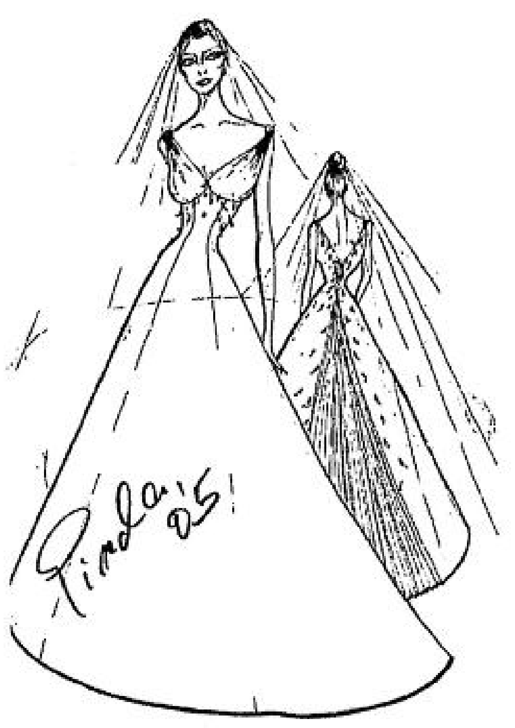
Sandra Rodriguez, daughter of Navy Captain **Miguel** and **Aleli Rodriguez**, celebrated recently her 18th birthday at the Divino Pier in the Navy Headquarters along Roxas Boulevard. The debutante is a sóphomore HRM student at University of the Philippines Diliman.



BAUTISTA-CAMANTIGUE

Jay Bautista, son of **Albertita Cammagay vda. de Bautista**, and **Lisette Camantigue**, daughter of **Augusto** and **Belen Camantigue**, will exchange vows on Dec. 10 at Our Lady of Pillar, Imus Cathedral, Imus, Cavite. Reception will follow at Josephine's Restaurant, Kawit, Cavite.

Paul Rex Mateo of The Wedding Day designed and executed the gowns of the bride and entourage.



MAGSINO-GARCIA

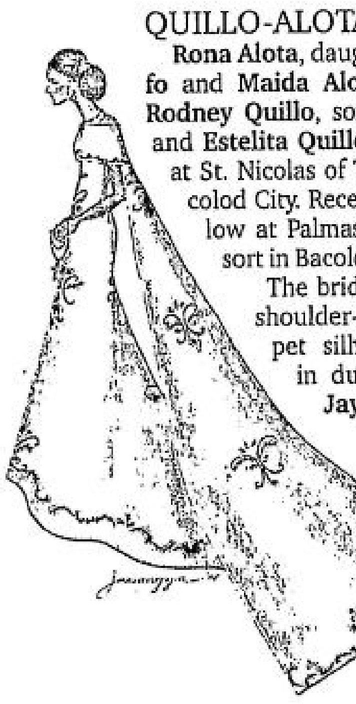
Cherry Bernadette Garcia, daughter of **Dante** and **Flordeliza Garcia**, will exchange vows with **Esmeraldo Magsino**, son of **Ernesto Sr.** (deceased) and **Matilde Magsino**, on Dec. 17 at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Makati. Reception will be at The Loft, Rockwell Center, Makati.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ecru bridal satin. It is cut on the empire with twisted straps and is adorned with champagne gold organdy petals and leaves.

DEL REY-MASUNGSONG

Jonnel del Rey, son of **Juan del Rey Jr.**, will wed **Hazel Masungsong**, daughter of **Maximiano** and **Amorlina Masungsong**, at 3 p.m., Dec. 10, at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, Trece Martires City, Cavite. Reception will follow at Metropolis Greens Clubhouse poolside, Gen. Trias, Cavite.

Paul Rex Mateo of The Wedding Day created the gowns of the bride and entourage.



QUILLO-ALOTA

Rona Alota, daughter of **Adulfo** and **Maida Alota**, will wed **Rodney Quillo**, son of **Rodulfo** and **Estelita Quillo**, on Dec. 10 at St. Nicolas of Tolentine, Bacolod City. Reception will follow at Palmas del Mar Resort in Bacolod City.

The bride will wear a shoulder-baring trumpet silhouette gown in duchess silk by **Jay Masangya**.

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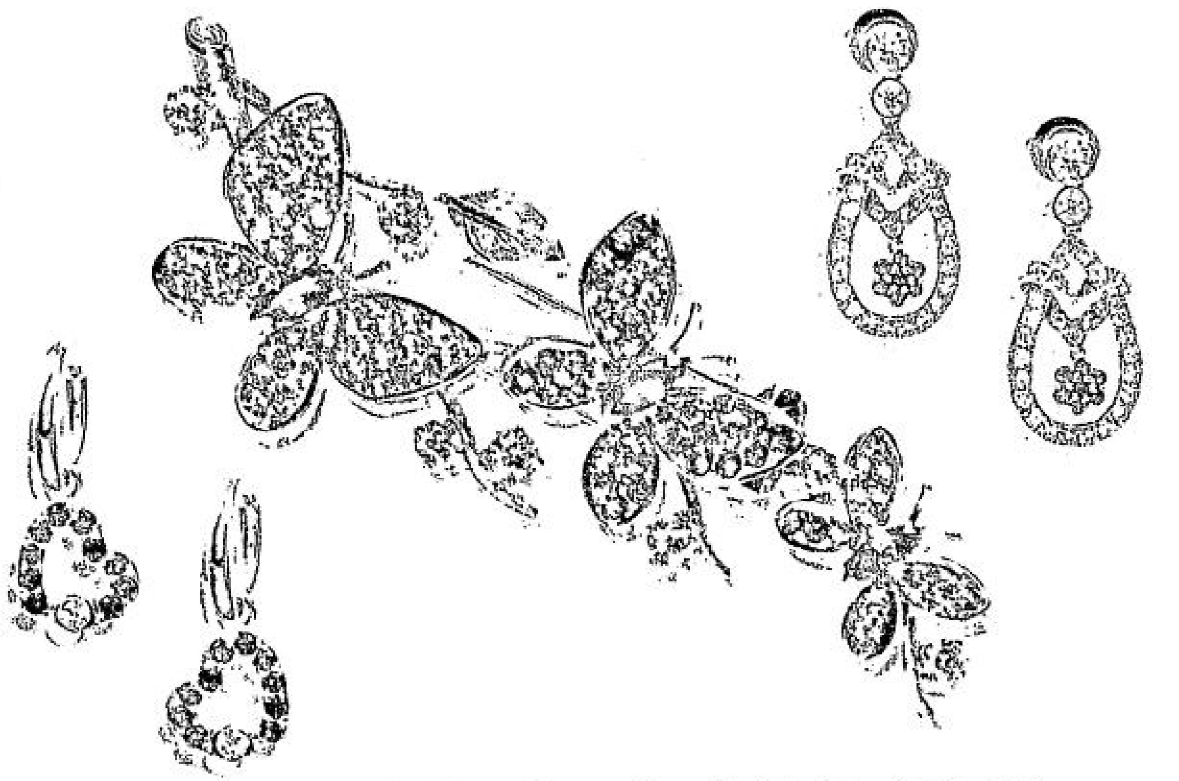

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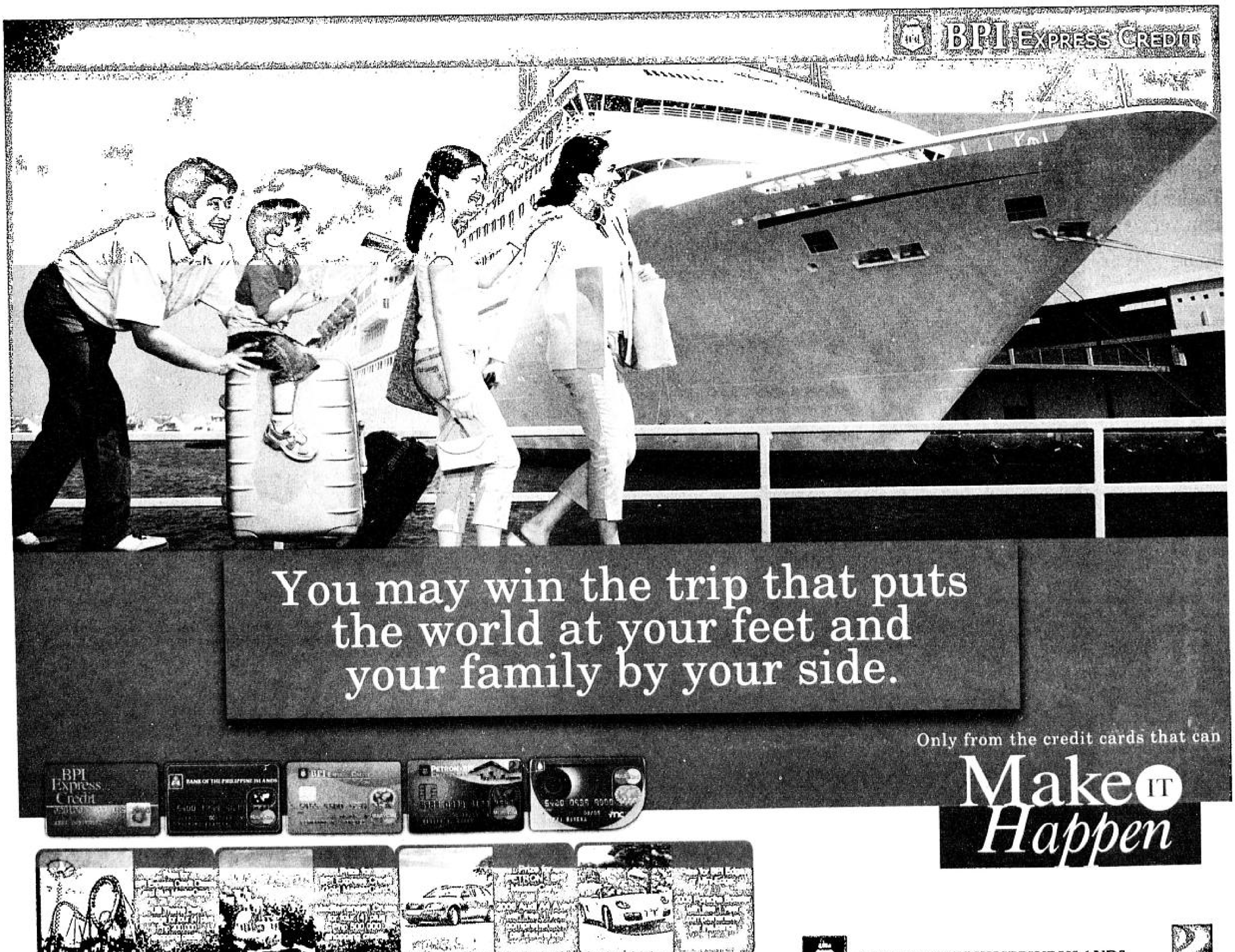
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Editor: Aries B. Espinoza
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Delightful feast for the Holidays

FILE PHOTO

GLITZY LIGHTS, COLORFUL flower decorations, and carols signal the coming of Christmas. *Tiangge* and malls are bustling with families doing their holiday shopping. And the menu for Noche Buena is being readied.

But for Filipinos, Christmas would never be complete without the native fare of *puto bumbong* and *bibingka*. Traditionally, these delicacies are popular only nearing the Christmas season. During *Simbang Gabi* (*Misa de Gallo*) food stalls are brimming with people eager to taste this truly Filipino food. But lately, they have become available all year round in various native restaurants around the country.

Bibingka is that plump, round cake made of *galapong* (glutinous rice) baked over and under live coals. To make it even more inviting, it is garnished with slices of salted eggs, cheese, butter or margarine, and sprinkled with grated coconut meat and sugar. It is said that it tastes better with *kesong puti* (white cheese).

And who can resist *puto bumbong*? Its purple color makes it even more inviting. The ground purple *pirurutong* (glutinous rice) is cooked in a small bamboo cylinder called *bumbong*.

These two native delicacies are better eaten with *salabat* (ginger tea), tea, or brewed coffee.

No matter how hard the times have become for Filipinos, there will always be at least a modest salo-salo (get-together) for families. *Noche Buena* is a symbolic rite of thanksgiving for the Filipino family. It has also become a reason for family reunions.

There are two types of food that also dominate the dinner table for the midnight supper: ham and *queso de bola*. Ham comes in all shapes and sizes, and the cheese comes in conspicuously red wrapping. Fresh fruits will always be present especially grapes, apples, oranges, banana, and all that are in season.

For an even grander meal, some families serve *lechon de leche*, *relleno* (stuffed fish), *galantina, pochero, suman, puto, and pastillas*. Fruitcakes and cookies have been included in the season's menu.

While these have become regular fare for Filipinos during the *Noche Buena*, some parts of the Philippines distinguish them with a touch of local food.

Main dishes in the Tagalog regions include *morcon, embutido, calderetta,* honey-cured chicken, *lechon de leche, arroz valenciana, camaron rebosado,* chopsuey, and more.

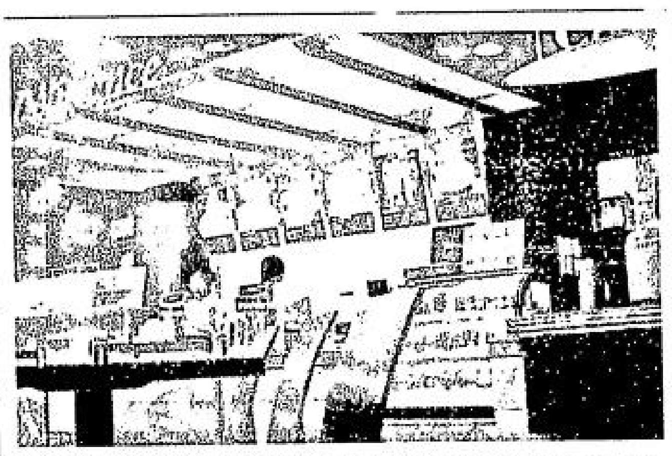
Northern Luzon is known for its festive meat dishes like *kilawin, pinapaitan, lechon kawali, calderetta, dinadalen,* and *pacpac*. The region's delicacies include *linapet, tupig, bibingka*, and *kaskaros*, all made from glutinous rice mixed with coconut milk and sugar.

In Southeastern Luzon, people whip up a nice mouth-watering recipe of seafood dishes: prawns and crabs top the list. And who can resist the perennially popular *suman sa ibos* and *balisoso*. Again, these native delicacies are made from glutinous rice with sugar and coconut milk or meat of young coconut deliciously wrapped in banana leaves.

Can the Visayans be far behind with luscious servings of *ibus, puto-puti, suman, kalamay hati, bandi,* and *baebae*. In Cebu, *haleyang ube* (ube jam) is one of the most popular.

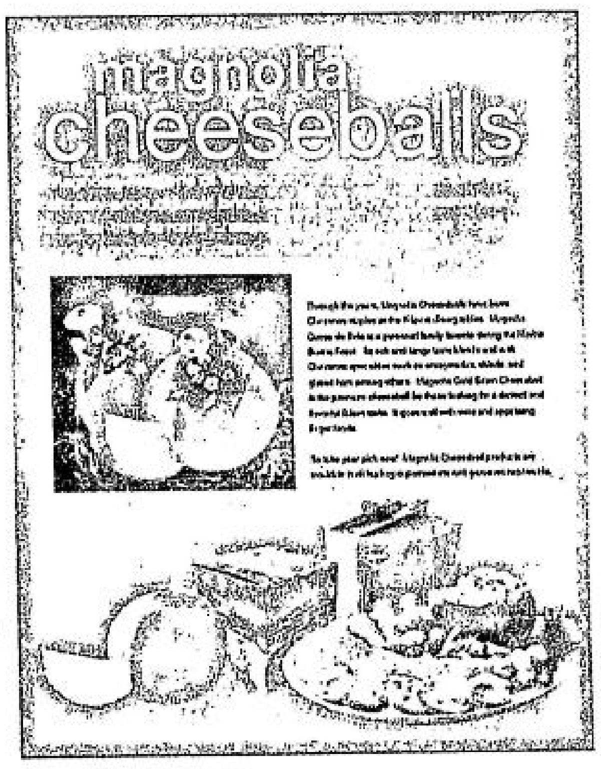
Most of these native delicacies are made from rice, the Filipino staple food, and coconut milk. Filipinos' love for cooking and food bring life to this festive season top it off with that always hopeful spirit.

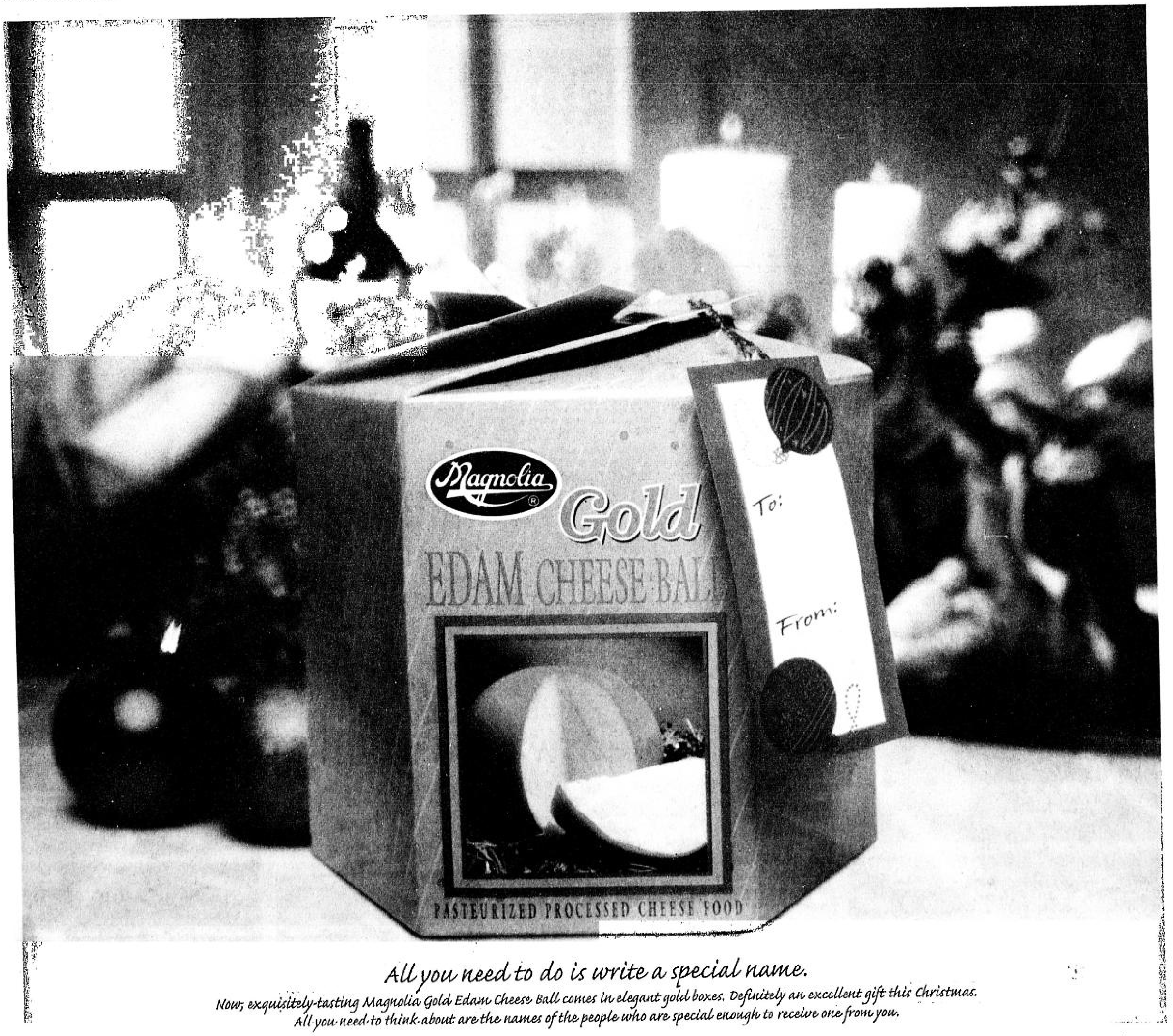
Source: "Pasko: The Philippine Christmas" by Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro and Marla Yotoko Chorengel.



DELIFRANCE NOW AT INSULAR LIFE AYALA

The biggest branch to date, Delifrance Insular Life showcases the new look of casual elegance and style that makes customers feel instantly at ease upon entering the store. A quiet section for business meetings was also added to serve the needs of the busy professionals and executives with offices in the area. Currently with over 30 stores in the country, Delifrance is committed to serving delicious food any time in the metro. With its prime location at Insular Life Building, corner Ayala Avenue, Delifrance's great food is just a step away.





All you need to do is write a special name.
Now, exquisitely-tasting Magnolia Gold Edam Cheese Ball comes in elegant gold boxes. Definitely an excellent gift this Christmas.
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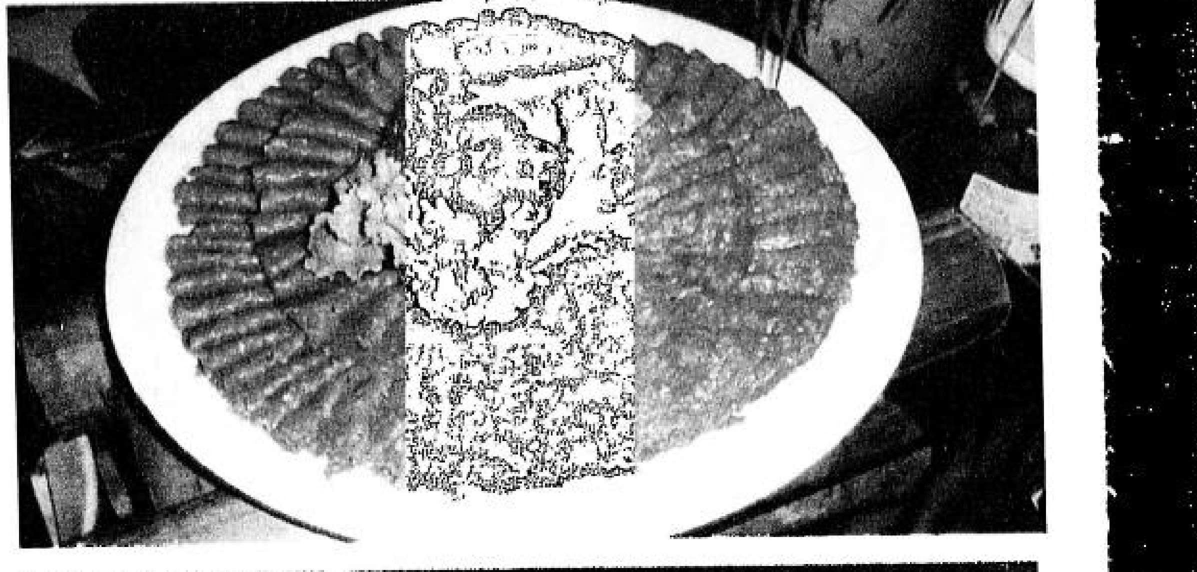
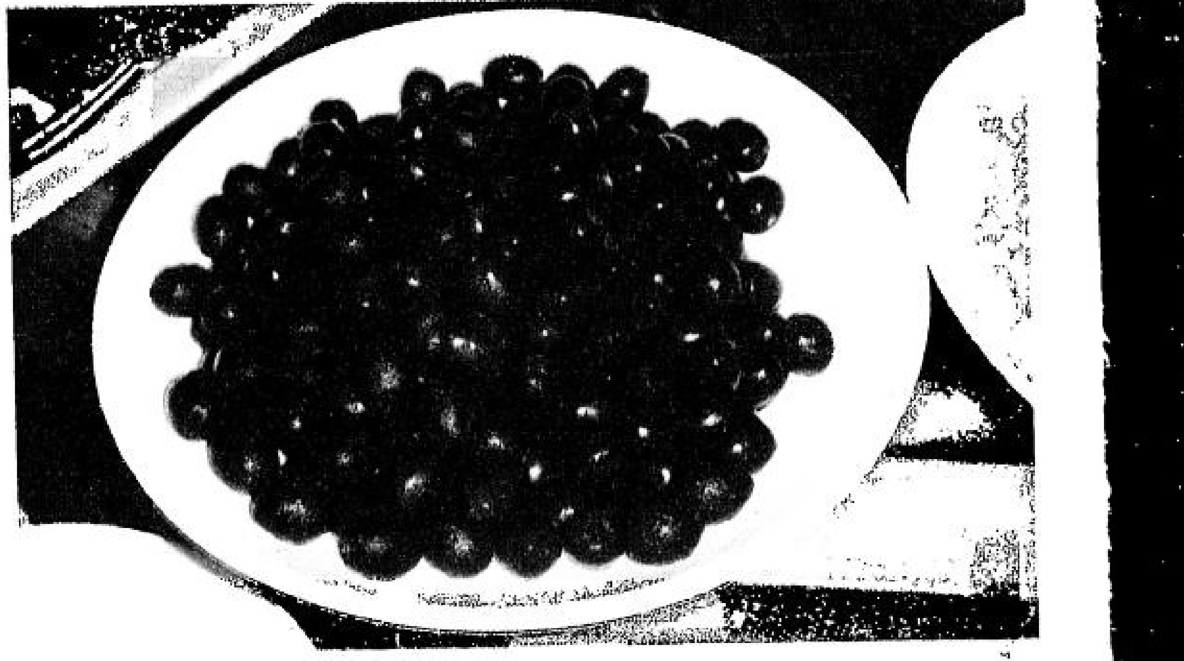
Spain's flavors showcased at Fuego hotels





PHOTOS BY JOEL V. NIGOS

WHEN FOREIGNERS VISIT SPAIN FOR the first time, they are amazed at the amount of time devoted to eating, and the discussions on all matters gastronomic. In Spain, eating is much more than a nutritional issue - witness the number of festivals devoted to food, sometimes revolving around a dish, like the paella or around a singular product, such as the tomato in the famous *tomatina* festival.

Spain's culinary delights include the *Jamon Iberico*, the olive oil which is considered as the world's healthiest oil, the *manchego* cheese, and its world-class wines. The flavors are now being showcased at "The Flavors of Spain."

The exquisite Jamon Iberico

What exactly is *Jamon Iberico*? Let's first take a look at the pig it all begins with the so-called *Cerdo Iberico* (Iberian pig) also called *Pata Negra*, because of its distinguishing grey color, opposite to the other races "white pigs." Currently, 90 percent of the Spanish ham production comes from white pigs and only 10 percent from Iberian pigs.

The most influential factor on the final quality of the ham is the feeding of the pig. Best hams come from Iberian pigs that have been eating acorns (Bellota) all their life. From October until January or up to February, these pigs are left in complete liberty on the "Dehesa," the countryside where they grow acorns.

Only ham from the Iberian pigs is allowed to be called *Jamon Iberico*. If no mention is made of *bellota*, then take for granted that the pig was fed with compound feed and only if you're lucky they have tasted some acorns. Still its taste is more refined that the more common *Jamon Serrano*.

In Spain, the most common way is to serve it with *pan tomaca* or tomato bread. Originally from Catalonia, it is now widely enjoyed around Spain and all over the world. Just take a slice of toasted country bread, cut a ripe tomato in half, rub it against the bread, sprinkle with a pinch of salt and extra virgin olive oil and top with a thin slice of *Jamon Iberico*.

At the same time, *Jamon Iberico* allows for an endless array of culinary creations and combines well with cold and warm dishes. It goes well with melon, rolled around fresh figs or with a ripe avocado or a pear. Try it with rolled around steamed prawns or indulge yourself and savor it with *foie gras*. *Jamon Iberico* is best eaten just as it is, in paper-thin slices (*lonchas*). The trick is to pick up one between the thumb and index finger and let it slide in your mouth where it will melt on your tongue. Now savoir it slowly and notice the soft lingering before you take the next one. Remember though to cut just before eating, not hours... you won't be able to resist waiting in any case.

Olive oil

Spain is the world' biggest producer of olive oil aided by its climate, which is hospitable to the cultivation and growth of the olive tree. The olive tree is typical of the Mediterranean area as it needs a lot of sun and a climate characterized by mild winters, rainy autumns and springs and warm, dry summers.

Some of the different categories of olive oil are as follows:

Virgin-Oil extracted from olives by mechanical or other methods which do not modify its basic properties. Within the grade, there are actually three recognized quality levels: extra (first pressing), average or *corriente* (oil with a good taste), and strong or *lampante* (inadequate taste).

Refined olive oil (*Aceite de Oliva Refinado*) - oil obtained by refining virgin oil whose taste and/or acidity levels make it unsatisfactory for direct consumption.

Olive oil (*Aceite de Oliva*) - this is made by blending both refined and virgin olive oil.

Food suggestions

When dressing salads and vegetables, pour the olive oil first, then add salt and vinegar or lemon. Adding the oil first provides a protective layer which helps the vegetables to stay fresh and crisp. Olive oil is excellent to spread on meat before grilling, as it helps to, preserve the natural juices. Also, any meat, fish or vegetable fried in olive oil is tastier, as the oil prevents the food from sticking and becoming greasy.

The "Flavors of Spain" is ongoing at Club Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas until the end of the year. Previous flavors of Spain events were held last Oct. 4 at Top of the Citi, Citibank Tower, Makati City, at Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay City from Oct. 1-31 and at the Pearl Farm Beach Resort in Samal Island from Nov. 1-30.

"Flavors of Spain" is a project being undertaken by The Trade Commission of Spain, an institution operating under the authority of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade in Madrid. Spain currently has 85 commercial offices throughout the world, specializing in specific categories of goods and services such as industrial products, electronics and computers, building and household equipment and furniture, consumer goods, food, wine and apparel, and bilateral relations. Its main purpose is to promote Spanish industrial products around the world, providing all relevant information on Spanish firms looking for partnerships, investments or export opportunities.

Luvin' muffins

ON TOP OF ITS FAMOUS ROASTED chicken, Kenny Rogers Roasters is also known for its classic cornmeal muffins. Taking its specialty to the next level, Kenny Rogers brings back the limited edition muffin flavors that are sure to capture the hearts of children of all ages and those who are children at heart.

Packed with twice as much corn kernels, Double Corn enhances the classic taste of Kenny Rogers cornmeal muffins.

For those who love strawberry, the Strawberry Swirl muffins infused with tangy strawberry puree definitely hits the spot.

The ultimate chocolate lover's dream, Kenny's Choco Fudge muffins are rich in chocolate and have a fudgy feeling surprise in every muffin.

These assorted, delectable morsels are available in boxes of six for only P48. So hurry to your nearest Kenny Rogers Roasters store. Due to popular demand, it has extended this promo offer to Dec. 31.

Food offerings from Manila Pavilion Hotel

CHRISTMAS IS ABOUT GIFT-giving, though this does not just mean the exchange of presents but the bestowal of love, hope, and peace among each other. That is why the Manila Pavilion Hotel invites everyone to complement this tradition by sharing these delightful offerings with loved ones.

The Goodie Counter typifies the season's exuberance with treats such as fruitcakes, pralines, and gingerbread. Takeout Treats and Hampers are also available to make Christmas preparations come in handier. Available until Dec. 31 from 7 a.m. to 12 midnight at the all new Patisserie.

Of course, what is Christmas in the Philippines without the yellow and violet hues of the *bibingka* and *puto bumbong*? Each serving includes a cup of ginger tea, coffee or tea. Available until Dec. 31 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. also at the Patisserie.

At the Café Coquilla, families will surely enjoy a selection of local and international cuisine with the Christmas Eve Buffet on Dec. 24, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

In the morning, families can continue indulging in the season's lavishness with the Christmas Day Brunch on Dec. 25 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Even for the year-end, families can partake of the New Year's Eve Buffet and New Year's Day Brunch on Dec. 31, from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Jan. 1, from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For those preferring a classier Noche Buena, a Christmas Eve Special Set Menu is offered at the Rotisserie. Choose from two main courses, either a traditional roast turkey with stuffing or pan-fried seabass, along with an appetizer, soup and deserts. For the counterpart Media Noche, try the New Year's Eve Special Set Menu. Available on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

For those who wish to spend Christmas or New Year's Eve with friends, the Boulvar Lobby Lounge is the more appropriate setting. A special buffet is available for the Boulvar Christmas Eve Rendezvous. New Year, on the other hand, can be welcomed in the most fun way through the 2006 Countdown at Boulvar. This features live music from Righteous Act and Muzik Matrix, along with tasty pica-pica all in one cozy venue. These are available on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, starting 9 p.m.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extensions 2326 (Patisserie), 2318 (Café Coquilla), 2505 (Rotisserie) and 2317 (Boulvar).

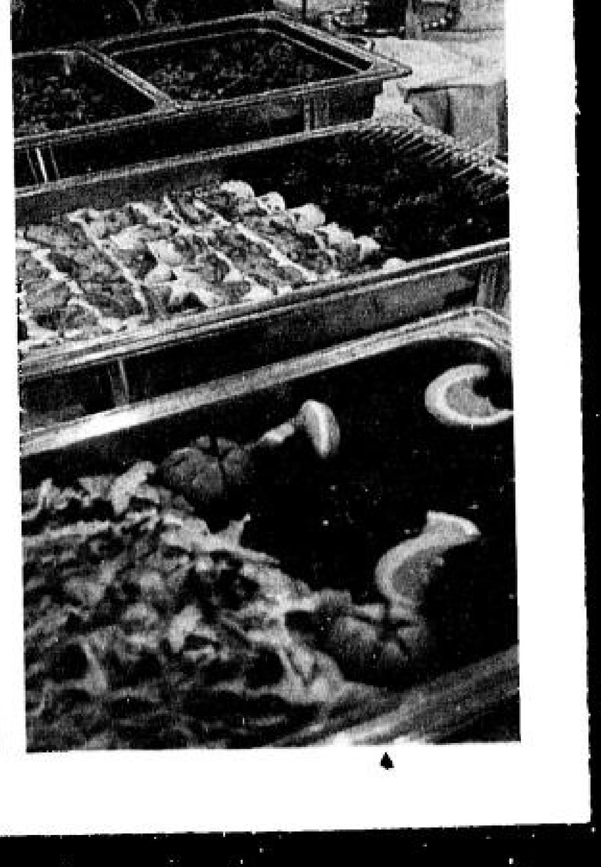
Great food for all occasions

FOR A GET-TOGETHER WITH friends, weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, baptisms, and family reunions this Christmas season-whatever the occasion, leave the food, planning, and preparation to Tia Maria's Catering with its very own Tex-Mex cooking: a feast guaranteed to satisfy every discriminating taste.

Try the popular appetizers: Nachos Grandes-nacho chips smothered in Mexican beef, rich cheddar sauce, salsa, black olives, jalapenos with a dash of sour cream; the Calamares-deep fried squid in a delicious batter; or the Buffalo Wings-spicy chicken wings glazed with Tia Maria's special sauce.

For the main course, one is assured of a delicious spread to choose from: Burritos, Enchiladas, Fajitas, Grilled Chicken or Pork Chops, Tex-Mex Spareribs, among others. Of course, no Tex-mex meal will be complete without Tia Maria's well-known Margaritas and Zombies, available in three set menus at competitive prices starting from P380 per person, exclusive of tax and service charge.

Invite Tia Maria's to cater and begin a culinary adventure to remember! For inquiries, call 525-7389 and ask for the catering specialist.



One-Step
One-Step
Leche Flan

ONE-STEP CHRISTMAS TREATS

The latest addition to the Pillsbury One-Step mixes is Leche Flan, which makes for the perfect dessert for Noche Buena. Add to this the other Pillsbury one-step delights and you can have warm, freshly made 'bibingka' after the midnight Mass, hearty hotcakes for breakfast on Christmas morn and moist chocolate crinkles for Christmas merienda.

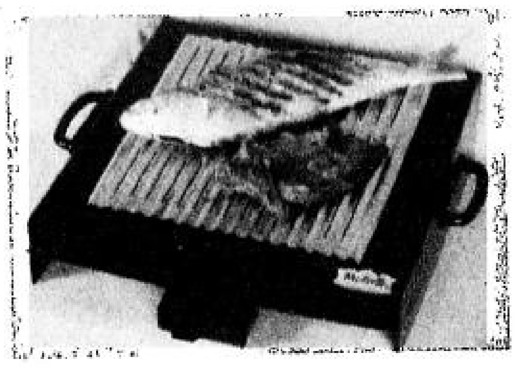
A new way to indulge

WHO SAYS LUXURY AND CONVEnience can't mix?

From the makers of San Mig Coffee comes Grandeur, a premium 3-in-1 coffee mix created from the finest Colombian Arabica coffee beans with 45 percent less calories compared to regular coffee mixes. Colombian Arabica coffee beans are grown in high altitudes in semi-tropical climates, ensuring a full-bodied and well-balanced flavor.

Grandeur comes in four perfectly balanced blends that will surely please the palate of the discerning coffee lover-original, hazelnut, mocha and Italian original. Packaged in the most luxurious way, in an elegant matte box with silver stamping, Grandeur evokes a mood of luxury and sophistication. Cholesterol-free and Halal-certified, each sachet is also printed with an uplifting motto, a perfect greeting to start each morning.

No-drip grill from Palawan



AN INVENTOR FROM CORON, PALAWAN has designed a special griller in order to save lives and help preserve the environment.

Manuel Ruiz Dono of Coron, a member of the elite Filipino Inventors' Society, has been into product designing for many years. This inventor is credited with a list of product designs, which are now produced commercially. But his more recent invention, The McGrill, has remained special to him.

"The McGrill is a legacy I want to leave for all Filipinos," says the inventor. "In an economic crisis every Filipino should help in creating wealth. A useful invention would be one of those".

This inventor took on the grill for good reasons. Product designers worldwide abandoned the idea of improving the grill designs considering that nothing else more could be added to it.

But people have been avoiding doing the grilling, even though they like grilled food. The result of this is that grilled food has become rare fare, and with this the option for healthier cooked food. Heart disease aggravated by hypertension is the number one killer in the world. These health disorders are triggered by the excessive intake of fats. The easy antidote would have been to switch to grilling food whenever possible.

One downside to traditional charcoal grilling, though, is its environmental consequences. In order to produce charcoal, young trees have to be cut, thereby causing soil erosion and sedimentation of seafronts, which result in hindering aquatic life.

McGrill has been designed to adapt to traditional charcoal, electric and even LPG stoves. This versatility limits the need for charcoal. And since LPG stoves produce flames that are hotter and cleaner, the McGrill can grill food fast and easy, as well. With McGrill used at the LPG stove, food turns out juicier and tastier.

With McGrill, the grill reinvented by Filipinos for the world, grilling has become so much more convenient-a definite advantage to our palate, our health and to the environment.

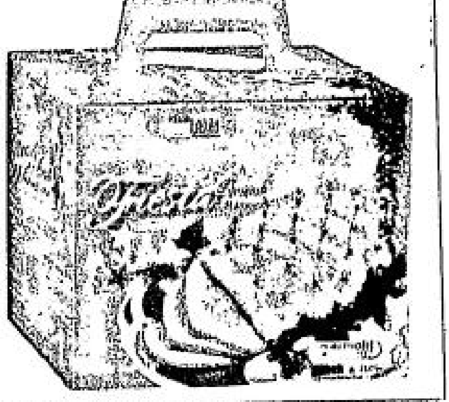
For more information on the McGrill, call 995-0039 or 0918-3289031.

Sa Ating Tinapayan offers quality bread

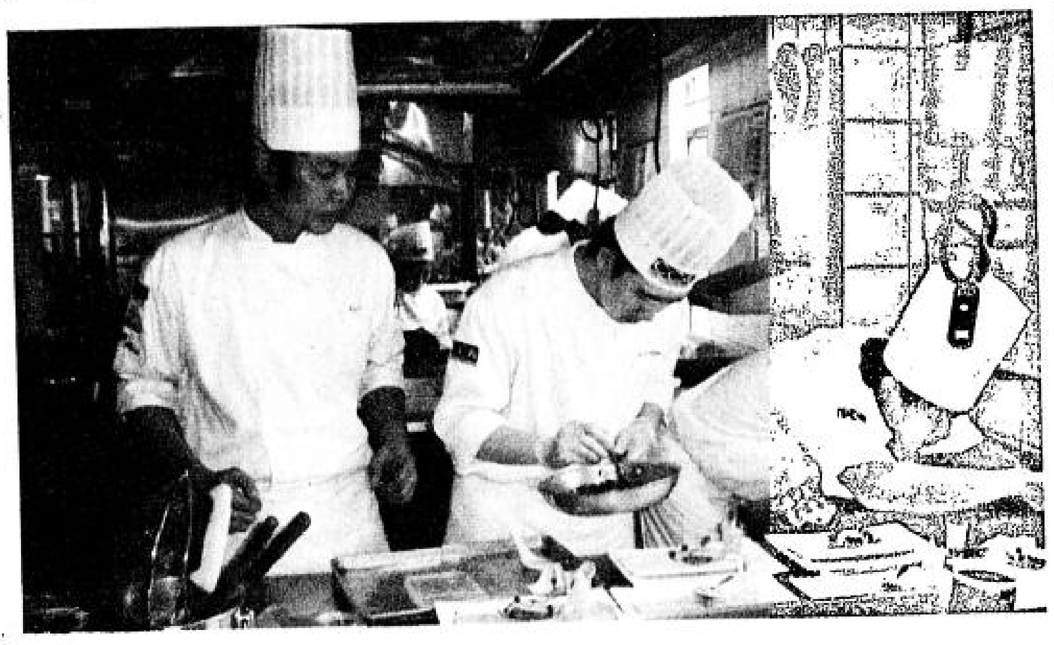
CHEEZY HOTDOG

SA ATING TINAPAYAN PRODUCES HIGH-QUALITY BREAD MADE FROM THE finest ingredients to offer the best to their customers at reasonable prices. Tinapayan conceptualizes its bakery to be abreast with the competition with products that are in-demand nowadays. It has chocolate ensaymada; cream cheese bread, dinner roll, egg pandesal; sausage roll; Cheezy hotdog; apple crumble; blueberry crumble; bubble bread and creamy banana roll, aside from top-of-the-line breads such as potato bread, banana cake, wheat bread, raisin bread and the classic ensaymada. These products are freshly baked and available now at Sa Ating Tinapayan Bakeshoppe located at the corner of Dapitan and Don Quijote Streets, near Bulaklakan ng Manila in Dimasalang Street. Also visit the Bread Festival Bakeshoppe at the south side of Market!Market! in Global City, Taguig.

PUREFOODS FIESTA HAM, A MUST-BUY THIS CHRISTMAS



If there are Purefoods Fiesta Hams on grocery shelves, it only means that Christmas is just around the corner. Nothing best heralds the start of the country's widely celebrated holiday than the sugar glazed, rich golden brown ham that evokes fond memories of Noche Buena feasts. A must-buy this Christmas, Purefoods Fiesta Ham is now available in 1.0 and 2.0 kilo-packs, in leading supermarkets and grocery stores nationwide. Also available are Purefoods Chinese Ham; Purefoods Chicken Ham; Purefoods Pear-shaped Ham; Purefoods Noche Buena Brick Ham; and Purefoods Jamon de Bola.



Salon Culinaire at CCA, Manila

THE CENTER FOR CULINARY ARTS, MANILA (CCA) RECENTLY CELEBRATED INTERNATIONAL Chefs' Day by hosting an in-house culinary competition dubbed as "Salon Culinaire". CCA, Manila students showcased their creativity in preparing various dishes and desserts. The event was held in cooperation with the World Association of Cooks Society (WACS) to honor chefs all over the world who have advanced the culinary profession. Photo shows the winning team preparing for their winning piece. For inquiries on courses, call 4264840 to 41 or e-mail: marketing@cca-manila.com.

Treats for the Filipino sweet tooth

"FILIPINOS HAVE A SWEET TOOTH". THAT is an understatement.

The truth of the matter is, we love sweets. It comes as no surprise that Waffle Time, the originators of Filipino-style waffles has come up with its own sweet line of sweet fillings to fulfill the Pinoy's craving for sweets. Wholesome waffles made with fresh eggs, milk and butter are infused with the sweet fillings.

Its Apple Cinnamon waffle is a treat inspired by the classic American pie. For the chocoholic, Waffle Time's Swiss Chocolate-filled waffles are a knockout. Just like what Mom used to make with Baguio-bought strawberries mixed with condensed milk, Waffle Time's Strawberries and Cream captures the taste of this childhood favorite. Delight in a refreshing tropically flavored waffle with Pineapple Pleasures and for the nutty bunch, there is rich and creamy Peanut Butter.

Waffle Time also comes in flavors such as Mango Magic, Ultimate Ube, American Hotdog, Canadian Bacon, Pinoy Longanisa, Cheese Delight, Chicken ala King, Tuna Salad, Hot and Spicy Corned Beef, German Cheese Franks, and Italian Sausage.

Forget about counting calories for a while and indulge your sweet tooth for a change. Visit the nearest Waffle Time kiosks in your favorite malls. For franchise application or information, call Jacqueline Guzman at 550-6569 or e-mail customerservice@waffletime.com.

With Greenwich, it's never too early for summer

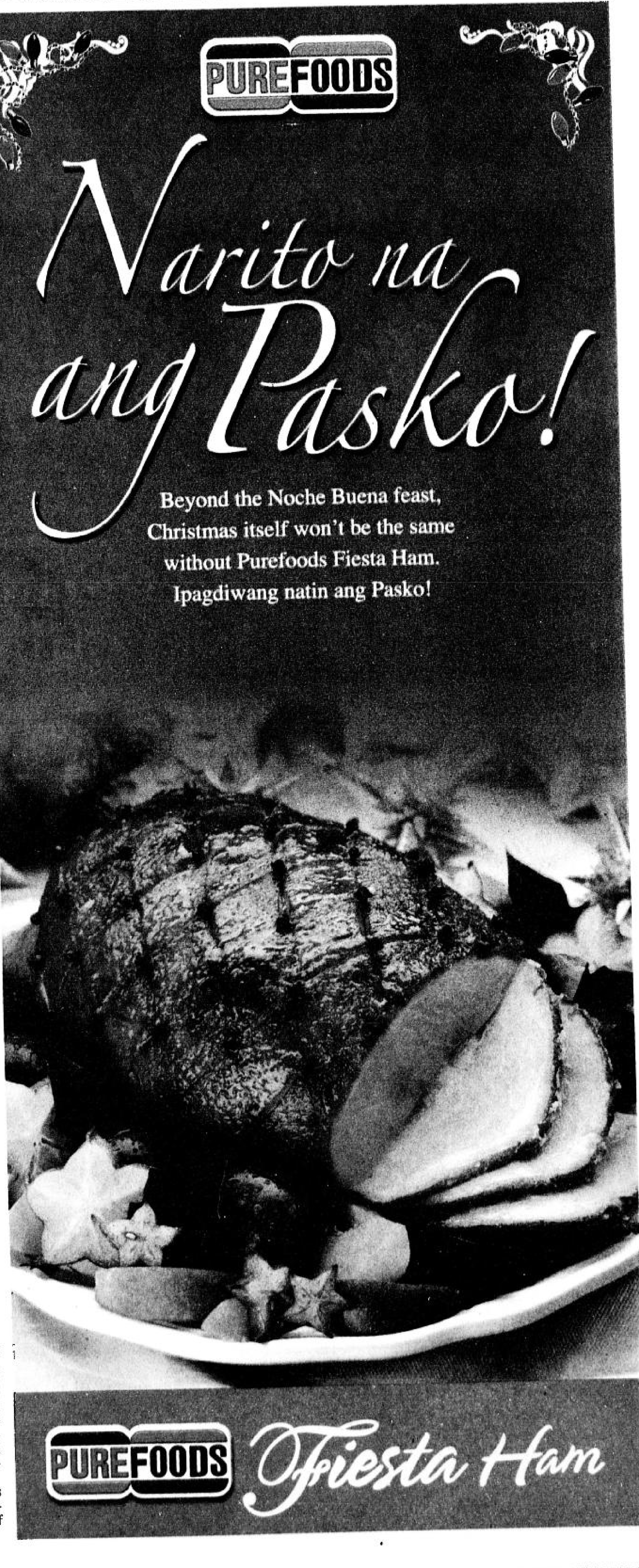
IT'S THE SEASON FOR JOYOUS HOLIDAY cheers, but Greenwich is already looking forward to summer. Greenwich is always full of delightful surprises as it gives away the perfect Christmas gifts to two lucky Greenwich patrons-a trip for three each to world-famous Boracay. Called the "Kasama sa Treats, ka-Join sa Trip" promo, it's Greenwich's way of saying "happy Holidays, see you in summer!"

It is a known fact that Boracay is the most sought-after summer destination, therefore early reservations are a must. Greenwich, known for being early or at least on time through its delivery service, shows that it can extend this trait to creative promotions. If you win in this latest promo, you don't have to go through the usual hassles of making bookings and reservations because Greenwich takes care of everything. All you have to do is tell Greenwich when you intend to fly, and you're off to a grand vacation.

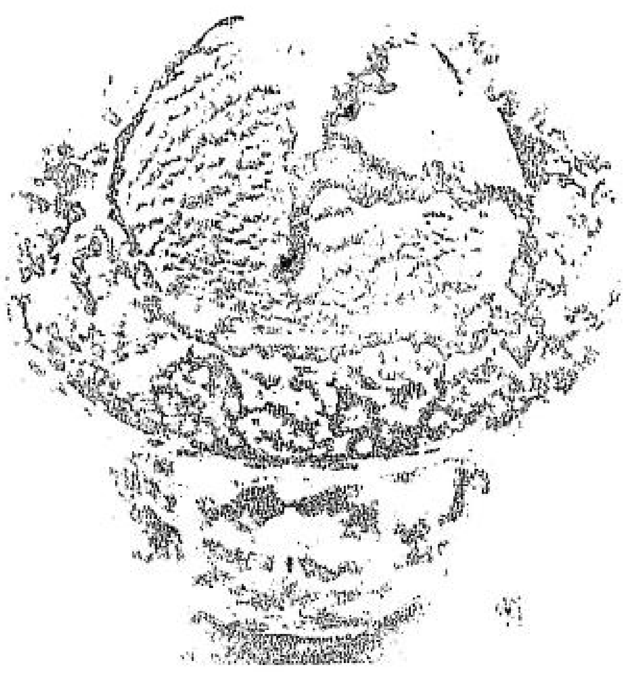
It's easy to join, with lots of discounts and freebies along the way. The important thing is to get a "Kasama sa Treats, ka-Join sa Trip" card every time you dine in or order for delivery at any Greenwich store. To do this, order any Coca-Cola product and do any of the following: order the large size, upsize your regular order, or order in pitcher. For delivery service, an order of 1.5 liters will also give you a promo card. At the back of each card, six stickers indicate the type of big discounts and free product you can get on your next purchases. Simply peel one sticker of your choice every time you eat at a participating Greenwich store to avail yourself of the discount or freebie.

On top of the card is a code number that you will need to become eligible for the grand prize. Type the words GREENWICH PROMO and the card number on your cell phone and send it to 2955. This promo is open to Globe, Smart, and Sun Cellular subscribers. Aside from the trip for three to Boracay, each winner will also receive a Canon A510 digital camera to capture exciting moments instantly, plus P10,000 cash as pocket money.

This promo is open until Dec. 12. Winners can enjoy their prizes right away as an additional Holiday treat, or wait for summer of 2006 when the sun is more fun.


PUREFOODS
Narito na ang Pasko!
Beyond the Noche Buena feast, Christmas itself won't be the same without Purefoods Fiesta Ham. Ipagdiwang natin ang Pasko!
PUREFOODS Fiesta Ham

Magnolia Ice Cream



REUNION NG BUONG PAMILYA. UMAA-paw na Noche Buena.

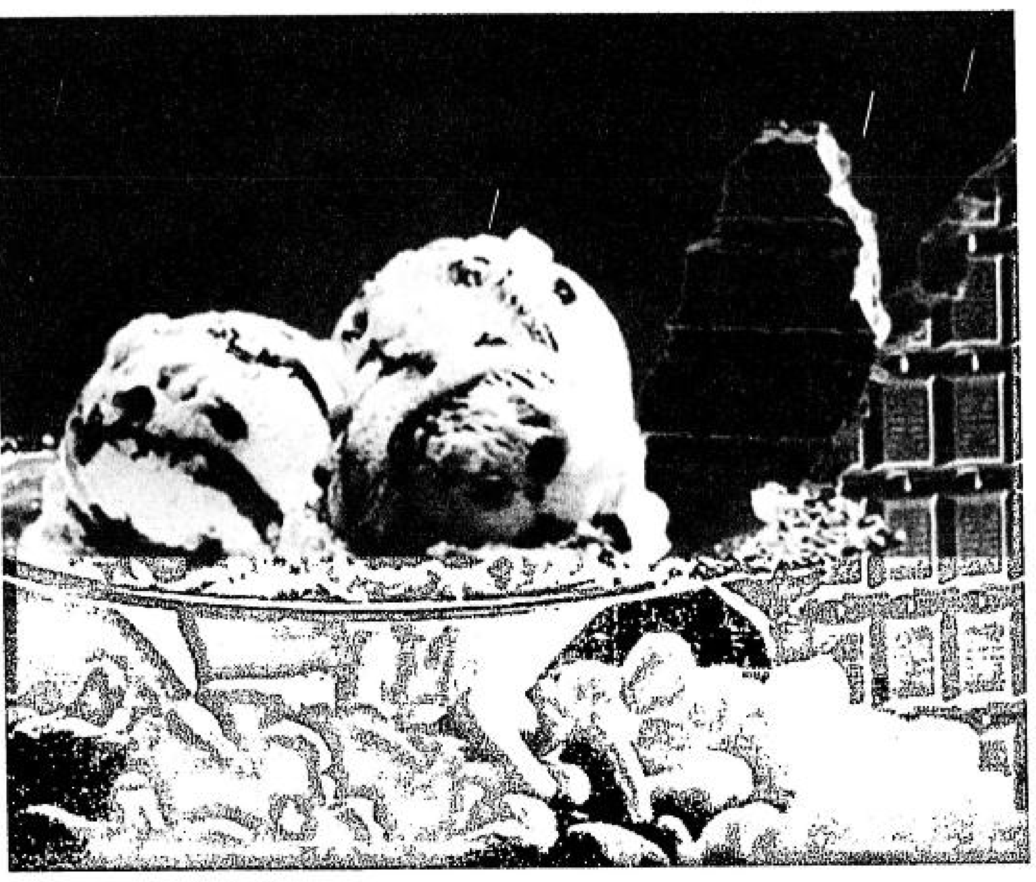
Mga parol na nagni-ningning. Mga batang nagka-caroling.

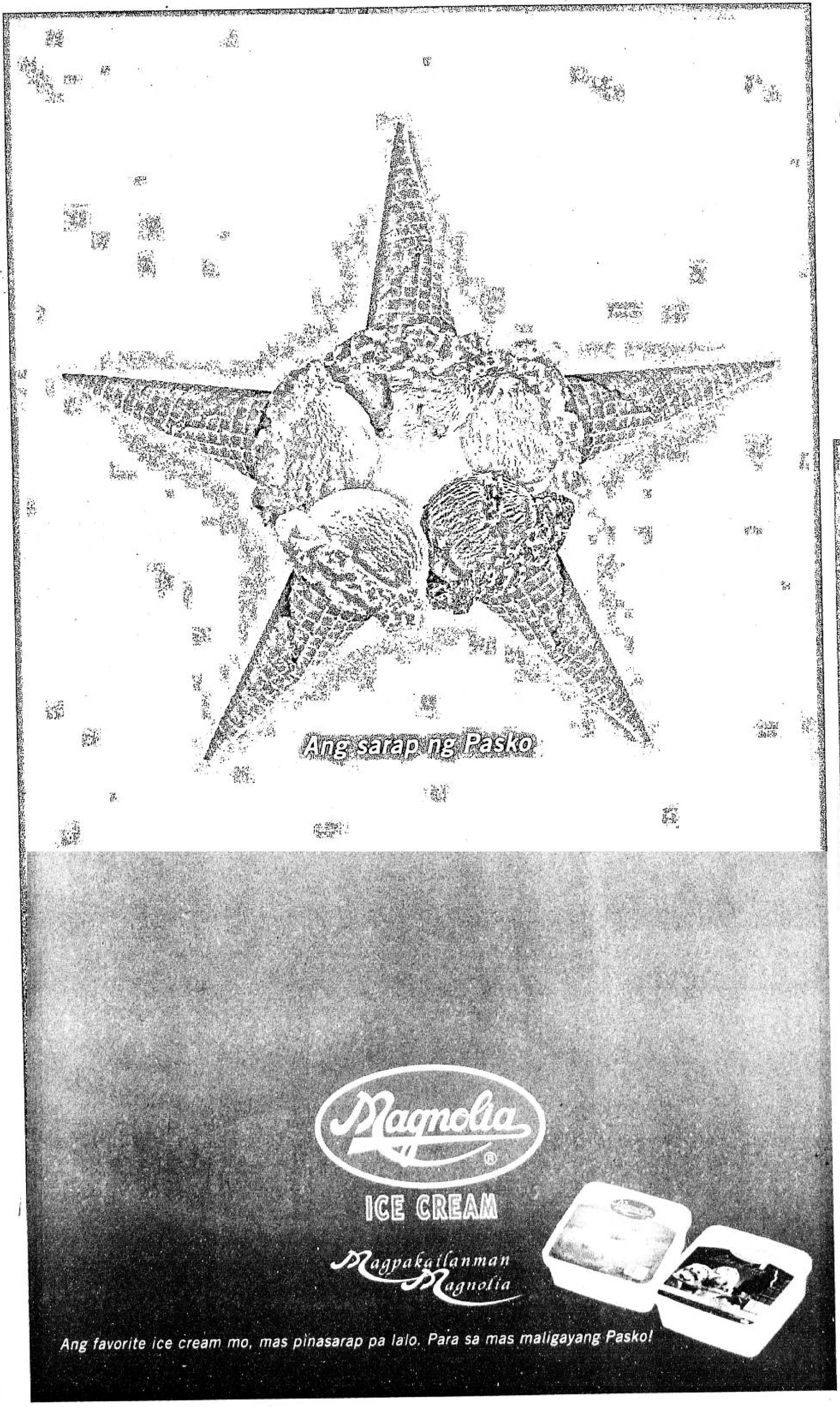
Puto bumbong at Misa De Gallo. Sangkatutak na aguinaldo.

Sa mga tradisyong tulad nito nagmumula ang sarap ng Paskong Pilipino. At Ngayon, lalong sasarap pa dahil nagbalik na ang ice cream na paborito mo. Richer, creamier, chunkier Magnolia Ice Cream. May apat na Gold Label flavors ng Cookies & Cream, Double Dutch, Dulce De Leche at Rocky Road. May anim naman na Classic flavors tulad ng Chocolate, Ube, Mango, Corn, Strawberry at Vanilla. Ang tunay na sarap na ice cream na kinagiliwan ng ilang henerasyon ng Pilipino mula pa noon, nagbabalik para pasarapin ang ating Pasko ngayon.

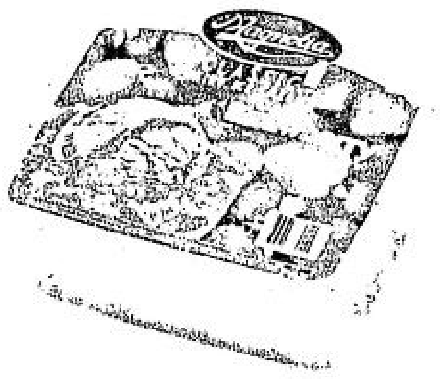
Wala nang sasarap pa sa tunay na Magnolia Ice Cream ngayong Pasko. At wala nang sasarap pa sa Paskong Pilipino!

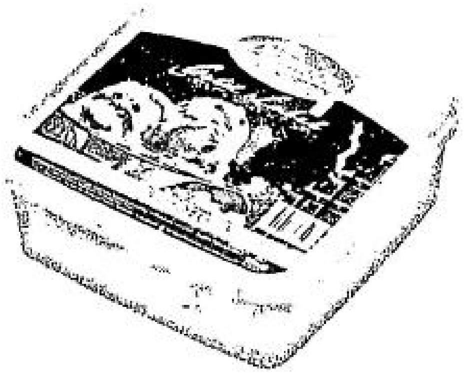
ADVT





Ang favorite ice cream mo, mas pinasarap pa lalo. Para sa mas maligayang Pasko!



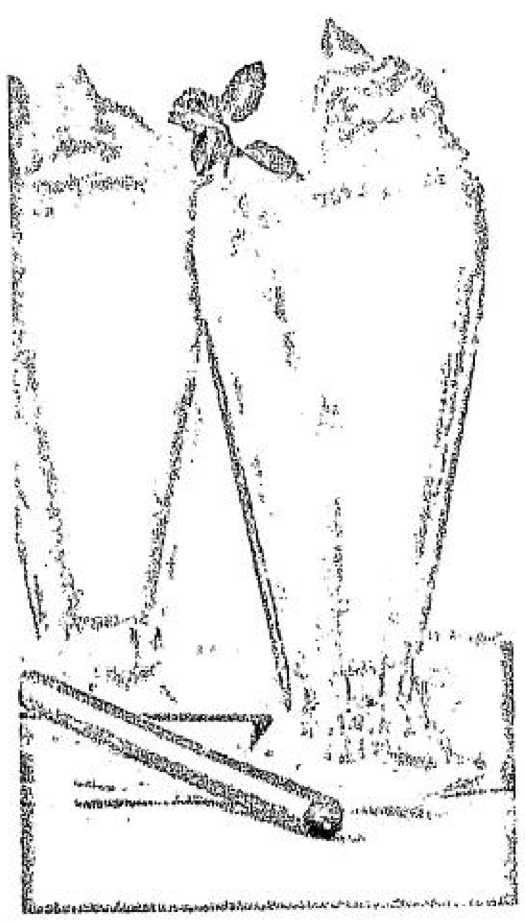


Double mango milk shake

Ingredients:
- 2 scoops Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream (Mango)
- ½ cup Magnolia Fresh Milk
- Whipped cream
- 1 pc Jellyace Mango Pudding, cut into small cubes

Procedure:

Put the Magnolia Ice Cream and milk in a blender. Process until smooth. Pour into a tall glass. Top with some whipped cream and cubed mango pudding. Makes 1 serving.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2005
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3 SECTIONS

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To suceed in life, you need the right tools.

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CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR INBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE

- possesses proficient basic computer skills
- open to working odd hours
- courteous, attentive, and able to develop rapport
- dependable and has good work ethic
- detail-oriented
- fluent in English and highly conversational
- problem solver

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR INBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE WITH UPSELLING

- ability to identify customer needs
- ability to learn and apply procedures
- comfortable with sales
- detail-oriented

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR FINANCIAL PROGRAM

- ability to discover customer needs
- preferably took a business-related course in college
- banking experience is an advantage
- detail-oriented
- possesses good analytical skills

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE FOR OUTBOUND CUSTOMER SERVICE

- preferably with 6 months call center/telemarketing experience, but not required
- customer service that requires upselling (after sales follow up calls)
- ability to establish good rapport
- above average communication skills

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVE

- possesses proficient basic computer skills
- open to working odd hours
- courteous, attentive, and able to develop good rapport
- dependable and has good work ethic
- detail-oriented
- fluent in English and highly conversational
- knowledgeable in DSL, internet, and networking

TEAM LEADER

- at least 1 year previous experience as a supervisor/team leader
- bachelor's degree in a related field
- call center/customer service background is preferred
- strong ability to maximize performance
- willing to be assigned in any location

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- at least 2 years supervisory experience in managing the performance of others in a call center or multinational company
- can communicate with all levels of management
- experience in managing functional work groups
- willing to be assigned to any location

RECRUITMENT OFFICER

- at least 3 years of Recruitment Supervisory Experience
- preferably with call center experience in an outbound setting

RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST

- at least 1 year solid experience doing recruitment work

EMPLOYEE RELATIONS SPECIALIST

- 2-3 years relevant experience in events management in a corporate or medium to large-scale setting background in internal communications (newsletter, intranet, publishing, etc)
- with experience in managing functional groups (school org, community/professional organizations) with HR experience in other functions is a plus

We'll give you a cash bonus to welcome you on board and we've now extended this offer until the end of December.

All applicants are required to bring a copy of their resume and a 2x2 ID photo.

For customer care vacancies, please pay us a visit, call 8577760 or email your resume to philippinesrecruitment@convergys.com
For technical customer care positions, call 6318230 or email your resume to hro@teledevelopment.com

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinson's Equitable Tower
#4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center
Pasig City
(02)857-7688
(02)857-7678

Commonwealth Office
Diliman Commercial Center
#46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue,
Diliman Quezon City
(02)756-7088
(02)756-7078

Makati Office
8th Floor, Tower 2, The Enterprise
Center Ayala Avenue
Makati City
(02)857-7788
(02)857-7778

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1150 España Boulevard cor.
Padre Campa St.Sampaloc, Manila
(02)735-2006

Cebu Office
R. Arcenas Street, Arcenas Estate
Banawa Hills
Cebu City
(032)416-5810

Alabang Office
Block 44, Northgate Cyberzone
Muntinlupa City
(02)758-1588

Rustan Marketing Corporation

Is in immediate need of top caliber individuals.....

BRAND MANAGER

- Female; between 26-35 years old; pleasing personality
- Degree in Business, preferably Marketing or Economics
- With at least two (2) years experience in product management and development of consumer products in a managerial capacity
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be computer literate

CORPORATE SALES MANAGER

- Female; between 25-35 years old
- Graduate of a four (4) year business related course
- Preferably with experience in a direct/retail selling environment
- Preferably with experience in distributing consumer products
- Creative and with excellent communications skills
- Must possess a pleasing, aggressive and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND OR E-MAIL IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Rustan Marketing Corporation
Human Resource Management Division
(C/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

A Dynamic Multi Disciplinary firm in the Top 200 Architects in the World with ISO 9001(Quality Management) and ISO 14001 (Environmental Management) certification for Architecture, Interior Design, Urban Planning, Master Planning, Engineering and Landscape Architecture invites individuals to fill the following positions:

SENIOR ARCHITECTS/ SENIOR PROJECT COORDINATORS

- Preferably Male – LICENSED ARCHITECT
- Must have at least Eight (8) years work experience in detailing and construction drawing
- Articulate in English
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Must be male, 30 – 40 years old
- Hardworking, can work long hours and on weekends
- Honest with Integrity
- Can work with pressure/with sense of urgency

PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

- Must be PROFESSIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEER
- Preferably Male, 40 yrs. old & above
- Experienced in Horizontal & Vertical designs
- Knowledge of Construction supervision, monitoring and project implementation.
- Knowledge of Electrical works evaluation
- Knowledge in MS Excel
- Willing to be assigned abroad

SANITARY ENGINEERS

- Preferably Male, 40 yrs. old & above
- Must be LICENSED SANITARY ENGINEER
- With at least 15 yrs. experienced in Design and supervision
- Must be honest and hardworking
- Willing to work long hours and on weekends
- Knowledge of AUTOCADD & other Engineering softwares an advantage

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

- Must be LICENSED LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
- Must have at least 10 yrs. work experience
- Creative in conceptualization
- Articulate in English
- Proficient in AUTOCADD /COREL / ADOBE PHOTOSHOP
- Can prepare plans from Design to Construction Drawings
- Honest with Integrity
- Willing to work long hours and on weekends

CADD DESIGNERS/OPERATORS

- At least five (5) yrs. work experience
- Male/Female BS Architecture graduate
- Articulate in English and/Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language will be an advantage but not required
- Hardworking, willing to be assigned abroad/ can work long hours and on weekends
- Proficient in AUTOCADD

QUANTITY SURVEYORS

- Must be LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEER
- Must have at least five (5) yrs. experience in cost estimation and quantity surveying
- Knowledge of construction supervision, project monitoring and implementation is a must
- Knowledge in MS Office and PRIMAVERA software will be an advantage
- Must be hardworking and trustworthy and willing to be assigned abroad
- Must be articulate in English and must possess excellent communication skills

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNERS / RENDERERS

- At least with five (5) yrs. work experience
- Male/Female Architecture graduate
- Knowledge of Arabic, Persian, Vietnamese and Chinese language would be an advantage
- Hardworking, willing to be assigned abroad / can work long hours and on weekends
- Proficient in AUTOCADD/3D

FRONT DESK OFFICERS

- Female, 25 - 30 yrs. old
- College graduate
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Articulate in English and with pleasing personality
- Hardworking, can work long hours and on weekends
- Computer literate
- Honest with integrity

PROFESSIONAL MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

- Must be professional Mechanical Engineer
- Preferably Male, 40 yrs. old & above
- Experienced in Horizontal & Vertical designs
- With knowledge in Mechanical work evaluation
- Knowledge of Fire protection piping system
- Knowledge in MS Excel
- Must be presentable, honest with integrity
- Can work long hours

SENIOR MASTER/URBAN/ ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNERS

- Male/Female, 30 – 40 yrs. old
- Licensed ARCHITECT/Licensed Environmental Planner an advantaged
- With Planning & Business orientation skills
- Knowledge of AUTOCADD, Presentations, Designs and conceptualization
- Has positive outlook, aggressive and creative
- Excellent communication skills
- Honest with Integrity

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

- Must be LICENSED CIVIL ENGINEER
- Must have at least (3) yrs. work experience in the following trades:
  - A. Structural Design using:
    - a.1 Manual Calculations
    - a.2 Knowledge of STAAD pro,
  - B. Quantity Cost Estimation
- Must be at least 25 yrs. old & above
- Knowledge of AUTOCADD would be an advantage
- Must be hardworking and trustworthy
- Must be articulate in English
- Willing to be assigned abroad

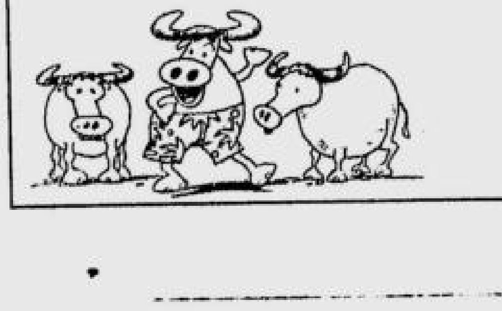
PLANNING/SCHEDULING ENGINEERS

- Must be LICENSED ENGINEER with at least 10 yrs. work experience
- Male 35 – 45 yrs. old
- Excellent in oral & written communication
- Must be computer literate (CADD/MS Office)
- Must be hardworking and trustworthy
- Willing to be assigned abroad

Interested applicants may send in their resume with recent 2X2 picture, a copy of Transcript of Records and NBI Clearance to the address below indicating the position applied for:

HUMAN RESOURCES UNIT
MCPO BOX 1515
City of Makati

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper: **INQUIRER**



JOB Market

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

STAFF ALLIANCE, INC., is a management consultancy firm which provides outsourcing and temporary staffing services. We invite all aspiring and dynamic professionals to explore job opportunities with us.

MANDARIN TRANSLATOR

Male/Female, 21-29 years old. ECE graduate, can speak Mandarin and English fluently. Knowledgeable in telecommunication terminologies. Willing to be assigned in Diliman, Q.C. With highly competitive salary package.

HR ADMIN OFFICER

Preferably Male, 23 to 27 yrs. old. Graduate of Industrial Engineering or any related course. Experience in procurement and inventory is an advantage. Should be willing to render long hours of work.

SALES & MARKETING ASSOCIATE

Male, Single/Married, 21-28 years old. College Grad., preferably Engineering course. Experienced in marketing temporary staffers and Head-hunting services is an advantage. Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATE

Male/Female, 21 to 25 years old. Graduate of any 4 yr course. Experience in handling corporate account. Should be willing to render long hours of work. Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

TELEPHONE OPERATOR/RECEPTIONIST

Female, not over 27 years old. With excellent phone management and communication skills. Graduate of any 4 yr course, with very pleasing personality.

HR CONSULTANT

Male/Female, not more than 29 years old, College grad. 4 years minimum experience in Recruitment and Retention programs. Knowledgeable in creating strategies to recruit and maintain people. Willing to work part-time, consulting basis (3 – 4 times a week, 2 hrs per day).

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Female, 25-30 years old. College grad., preferably related in Customs/ Import Administration. At least 2 years experience in a trading environment. With background in import/export, sales and marketing and familiar in client relations. With above average communication skills, in both written and verbal English.

(30) ACCOUNTING STAFF/CLERK/ASSISTANT

Graduate of BS Accountancy 21-30 years old. Will perform general accounting functions. Proficient in spreadsheet applications and basic tax laws. Preferably with experience in general accounting and familiar in computerized accounting systems.

(50) CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Male/Female not more than 28 years old. Graduate of any 4 yr. course. Good communication skills. Can handle pressure and willing to be assigned on a shifting schedule.

(50) CLERK/TYPIST/DATA ENCODER

Graduate of a 4 yr. Course, preferably Business related. Willing to be assigned in Makati, Ortigas and Binondo area and has experience in clerical tasks. Must be proficient in Microsoft Applications.

We encourage applicants to apply personally since all positions are for immediate employment. Please bring your resume, most recent 2x2 picture, and indicate contact number and appropriate position title in the application form.

STAFF ALLIANCE
Unit 404 Vicente Madrigal Bldg., Ayala Ave., Makati City
Trunkline/Fax: 8140914

Children are at the heart of everything we do

Plan Philippines **Program Unit Manager** - AN EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR A SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL!

Plan is one of the world's largest NGOs. In the Philippines, we work with and for children and poor communities in ten (10) provinces across the nation, spending $9 million every year for education, health, early childhood development, agriculture, microfinance, water and sanitation, coastal management and children's rights to protection and participation.

We seek to recruit a Program Unit Manager for our Eastern Samar Program Unit, a middle management level position with direct reports to the Country Director. Incumbent is responsible for overall management of Plan's operations in the Program Unit. Key responsibilities include program/project management, sponsorship management, partnership, coordination & networking, management of staff, finance and administration linked to the achievement of the Program Unit strategic and short term goals and objectives.

We invite applications from highly qualified and experienced professionals who possess the following qualifications:

Minimum of 5 years of development work experience in a supervisory/ managerial capacity, 3 years of which were in a child centered organization. Graduate of social science courses or related degree with training on partnership management, advocacy, networking, NGO leadership and management. Proven capacity in program management, people management, above average oral and written communication skill.

We offer an attractive salary and benefits package commensurate with the seniority of this post.

For more information on Plan Philippines and the Program Unit Manager position, please visit website www.plan-international.org or email myrna.juat@plan-international,org

Submit your application letter and CVs on or before December 12, 2005 to the HR Manager, 2F Carlos Valdes Bldg. Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229.

Previous applicants need not apply. We will only contact applicants we wish to interview.

Plan is an international, child centered community development organization without religious, political or governmental affiliations. Founded in 1937, Plan now works in over 60 Countries globally.

"Our policies and procedures always ensure that the welfare of children comes first"

IMMIGRATE TO CANADA

FREE SEMINARS - Marie Deilz-CSIC Licensed Immigration Consultant - January 02-05, 2006-6:30pm / Rebecca Cruz - February 4, 11, 18 & 25 @10am
PRIORITY PROCESSING-INVESTORS (3-9 mos)-
NOVA SCOTIA - NETWORTH OF $300K TO $799K,
QUEBEC, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS & SPOUSES,
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SKILLED WORKER-US600 Special Package
Standard Immigration Services Inc.
Suite 704, 7th flr, Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave., Pasig; Tel (632)631-4983; Telefax: (632)638-4774

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is in need of

STORE SUPERVISORS

Qualifications:

- ✓ Male at least 5'6" or Female at least 5"3"
- ✓ College graduate: 25-32 years old
- ✓ Preferably single; willing to be assigned in any branch
- ✓ Analytical and with good numerical skills
- ✓ With experience in handling a retailing business as store supervisor for at least two (2) years
- ✓ Willing to multi-task; Physically fit

Please mail your resumé with 2x2 picture at:

Sportshouse
Unit 2E Golden Tree Mansion
#74 Ignacio Santos Diaz Ave.
(formerly Banahaw) Cubao, Q.C.

Michell's
Cakes & Pastries
founded in 1978
Balanga City, Bataan

Our Laguna expansion (with branches in Biñan, Technopark, and Sta. Rosa) is in need of dedicated individuals for the following positions:

Production Supervisor
(w/ at least 2 years supervisory experience in Food & Beverage industry)

Quality Assurance Specialist
(preferably w/ work experience in quality assurance in F&B industry)

Cake Decorating Specialist
(artistic and innovative; work experience in cake decorating is an advantage; must present samples of artwork/cake designs)

The preferred educational background is in Food Science/ Food Technology or its equivalent. Applicants must be hardworking, punctual, and organized, and must be willing to work in Laguna.

Interested parties may submit their resume with 2x2 picture to:

MICHELL'S CAKES & PASTRIES
Balibago Commercial Complex
City of Sta. Rosa, Laguna 4026
Telfax: (02) 420-8111; (049) 534-4148

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Female, not over 28 years old
Accounting graduate, preferably C.P.A.
Precise and able to work with minimal supervision
Excellent in oral and written communication

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Female, 20 to 25 years old
Work experience is not necessary
Finished in any 4-year course
Must be computer literate
Excellent in oral and written communication

Please submit your resumé personally or by e-mail to:

SANDIGAN SHIP SERVICES, INC.
9th floor Salustiana D. Ty Tower
Paseo De Roxas cor. Perea St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 894-2821 to 24
Email: rommel.sandigan@dsp.net.ph

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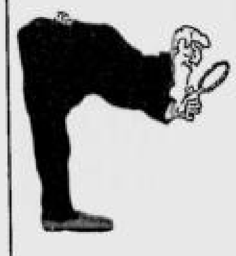

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JOB Market

IBN AMOR ELECTRONICS

URGENTLY NEEDS

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- With Experience in Organizing office system
- With computer skills

ACCOUNTANT

- 30-40 Y.O.
- With computer skills
- With Experience

Send // Email Resumé to gelinepw79@yahoo.com
Interview on December 7 & 8, 2005
May contact Gen at 0917-8509976

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ARE YOU THIS COOL UNDER PRESSURE IN CALL CENTER MANAGEMENT?

BI-LINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Fluent in Spanish and English verbal and written communication skills; prior call center experience is an advantage

CALL CENTER AGENTS (Part-time / Full time)

At least second year college / graduate of any course; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in various shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Experience with accounting applications and software support is a must; accounting knowledge is a plus

CALL CENTER MANAGER

At least five (5) years call center experience; assistant call center manager level or higher current or previous experience; strong motivational skills; extremely personable

ASSISTANT CENTER MANAGER

One (1) - Three (3) years managerial position in a call center; account management experience and client coordination skills preferably in an existing assistant manager position; should have experience handling at least one hundred (100) agents at a time

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS
(Technical and Customer Service account)

Must have at least six (6) months - one (1) year supervisory experience in a call center; must be an extrovert and must have an energetic personality; ability to multi-task; good time management skill

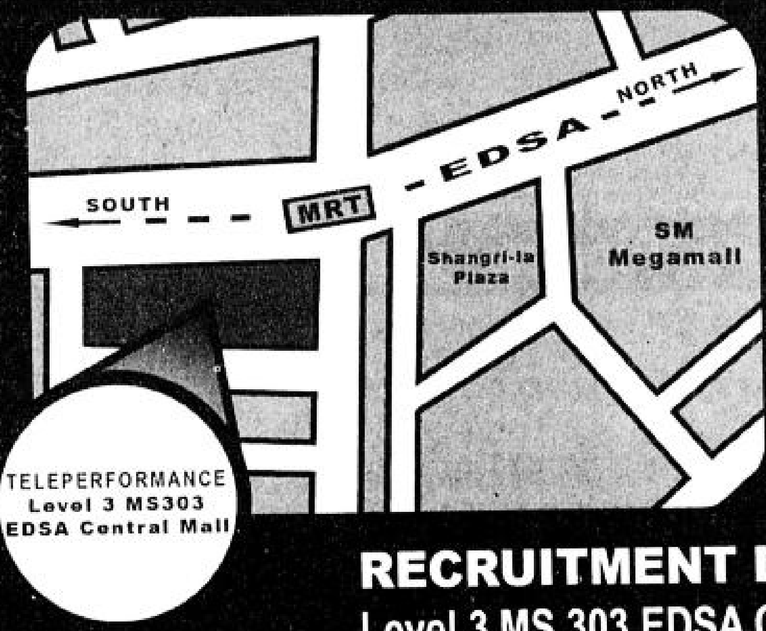
EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE

College graduate; excellent interpersonal skills; proficiency in the use of computer and various applications; attentive to detail; experience in organizing events; highly motivated, assertive and can work under pressure; well organized; thinks out of the box; innovative

DATABASE PROGRAMMER

Very knowledgeable in Microsoft SQL Server, Crystal reports, MySQL, Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment

All positions require excellent verbal and written communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer



Recruiting schedule
Monday - Saturday
8:00am - 5:00pm

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Level 3 MS 303 EDSA Central Mall
Mandaluyong City
Hotline: (02) 637-7111

www.teleperformance.ph

careers@teleperformance.ph
(please indicate the position in the subject field)

http://www.jobstreet.com/ph/teleperformance.htm

Children are at the heart of everything we do

Plan Philippines **Program Manager** - AN EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY FOR A SENIOR DEVELOPMENT PROFESSIONAL!

Plan is one of the world's largest NGOs. In the Philippines, we work with and for children and poor communities in ten (10) provinces across the nation, spending $9 million every year for education, health, early childhood development, agriculture, microfinance, water and sanitation, coastal management and children's rights to protection and participation.

We seek to recruit a Program Manager to give leadership in this vital work. The Program Manager guides all of Plan Philippine's work for children, and directly manages a team of expert advisors in health, education, early childhood, water and sanitation, child rights, livelihood and research and evaluation. He/she is a member of the small Country Management Team.

We invite applications from highly qualified and experienced professionals who possess the following qualifications:

At least five years experience as a senior manager - i.e. directly managing significant numbers of staff and multi-million dollar budgets; proven commitment to, and understanding of, children's rights to survival, development, protection and participation, and to the rights and development of poor communities. Higher degree, or demonstrated equivalent experience. Proven capacity in analysis and strategy development. Clear and concrete communications style. Proven ability in team management and participation.

We offer an attractive salary and benefits package commensurate with the seniority of this post.

For more information on Plan Philippines and the Program Manager position, please visit website www.plan-international.org or email myrna.juat@plan-international.org

Submit your application letter and CVs on or before December 12, 2005 to the HR Manager, 2F Carlos Valdes Bldg. Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229.

Previous applicants need not apply. We will only contact applicants we wish to interview.

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"Our policies and procedures always ensure that the welfare of children comes first"

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Continental Automotive Systems, a division of Continental Corporation, a German multinational company using state-of-the-art technology engaged in the assembly of vehicle electronic systems that improve passenger safety and comfort. The Company invites dynamic, career-oriented and self-directed professionals to support the IT requirements for its Manila-based IT Competence Center for Asia.

ORACLE Database Administrator

The hiree will be responsible for the admistration, maintenance and support of ORACLE database systems in accordance with the worldwide competence centers as well as the worlwide IT management in an international team based in the IT center Asia. He/She will assist the region as well as other regions in a "follow the sun" manner.

Qualifications:
- B.S. Computer Science, Information Technology, MIS graduate or its equivalent.
- Has at least 3 years experience in Oracle database systems (8i or higher) in various operating systems, such as AIX, HP-UX, WINDOWS, LINUX, etc.
- Has high level of competence in the administration of Oracle databases and Oracle Application Server in the Far East region.
- Has above average communication skills using the English language. Knowledge of Nihonggo would be an advantage.
- Has the capacity to work efficiently and effectively under pressure.
- Has the willingness to frequently travel.

Due to the urgency of requirement, applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resume detailing work experiences immediately to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
TEMIC Automotive Phils., Inc.
Temic Bldg., Bagsakan Road,
FTI Estate, Taguig, Metro Manila

Or e-mail to: connie.yamson@temic.com and
Copy to: Abigail.pozon@contiautomotive.com

Note: Interview for qualified applicants will start on December 06, 2005

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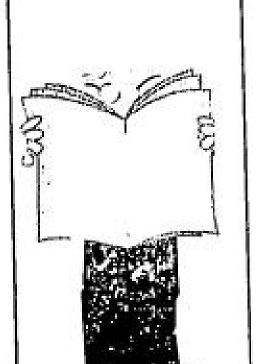

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email: amor_mondejar@yahoo.com
27th Floor Raffles Bldg. Emerald Ave., Ortigas Pasig City

WANTED
SALES MANAGER
SALES CONSULTANT
- At least 2 yrs experience in condominium selling
- Willing to travel abroad
- Willing to undergo training
- At least 2nd year college
- Not more than 40 years old

Apply with resumé and 3 pcs of 1x1 ID photos on Mon. & Tues., Dec. 5 & 6, 2005, 9 am to 11 a.m. only.
Penthouse, Taipan Place Bldg cor. Julia Vargas Ave and Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
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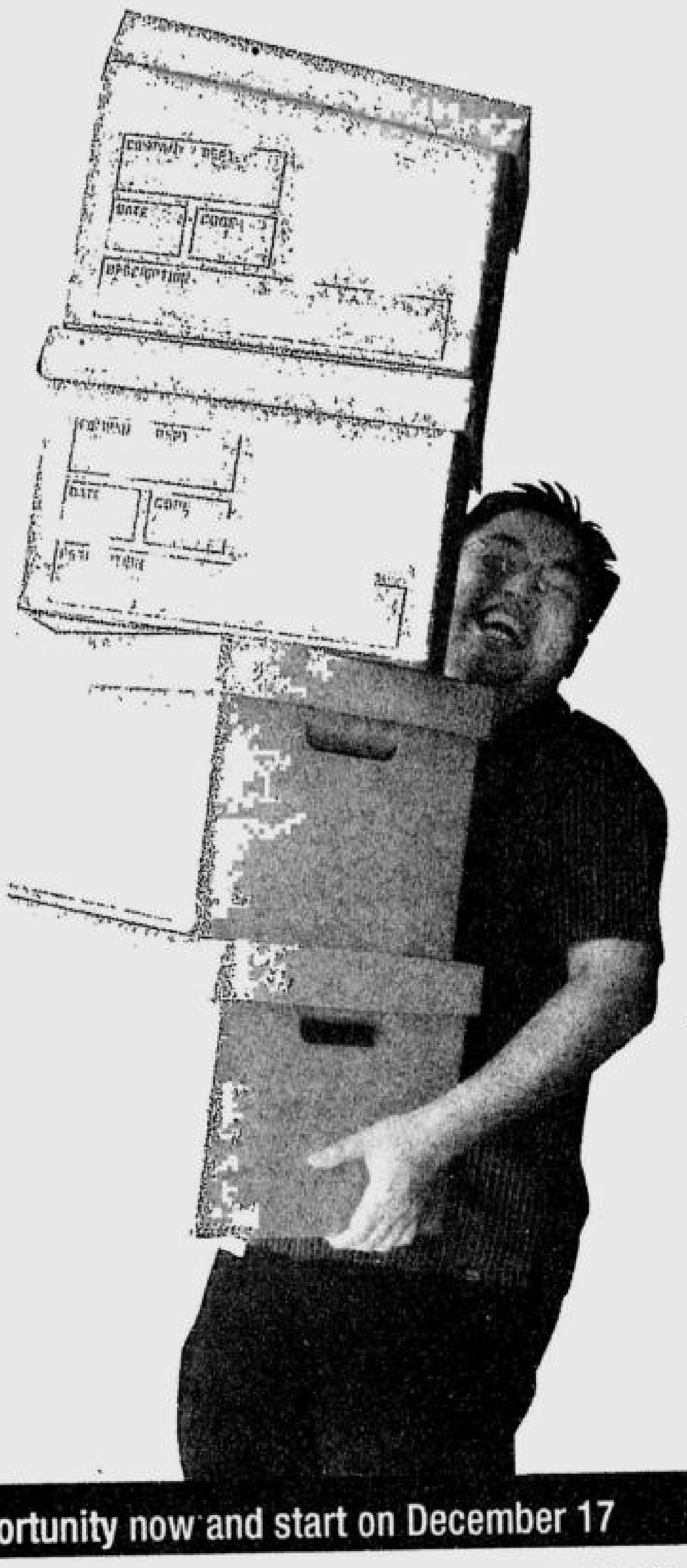

To reach out to more people and to make it easier for you to reach us, we're opening our recruitment and training center in a very accessible location – the EDSA Central Pavilion.

Grow with us! Be part of a global organization that is known for its deep business experience and world class technology. With our success supported by over 300,000 colleagues worldwide, wouldn't you want to be part of our growing family too?

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IBM DAKSH BUSINESS PROCESS SERVICES PHILIPPINES INC.

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Customer Care Specialists for Fortune 500 Companies

- Telecommunications (Voice Support)
- Travel (Voice Support)
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support) - HR Functions (Speaks Thai)
- Australian Query Management Account

Qualifications:

- Graduate of any Bachelor's degree
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Support & Leadership Posts

- Operations Manager
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Quality Consultant (speaks Thai)
- Data Network Specialists
- Voice Network Specialists
- Systems Administrators
- Implementation Manager
- Deputy Manager - Sourcing

Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

Our Recruitment Center is moving to EDSA Central by mid-December.
In the meantime, catch us at:

17/F Equitable PCI Tower Paseo de Roxas Avenue, Makati City	December 5 to 9 (9 AM - 8 PM) December 10 (9 AM - 6 PM)
San Fernando Job Fair People Sports Gym Capitol Compound, City of San Fernando, Pampanga	December 7 to 8, 2005 10 AM to 6 PM

Call our Recruitment Hotline:
840-6020
or email your resume to:
applications@daksh.com.ph

SNV Connecting People's Capacities

COUNTRY DIRECTORS

for

BHUTAN AND LAOS OR VIETNAM

(6061B&L)

SNV, the Netherlands development organization, is dedicated to a society where all people enjoy the freedom to pursue their own sustainable development. Our advisors contribute to this by strengthening the capacity of local organisations. In Asia SNV is active in 6 countries. Please turn to www.snvworld.org for more info on SNV.

SNV is looking for seasoned Asian management professionals to fill two Country Director positions, for Bhutan and for Laos or Vietnam. The Country Director is responsible for day-to-day operation of the country program and chairs the Management Team. As a member of the regional Management Team, he/she is also responsible for issues that go beyond the borders of the country program.

Key Qualifications and Skills:

- Open to all nationalities; Asian nationals are preferred.
- University education (Masters in management, organizational development or related fields)
- Proven experience in managing development programs and/or advisory services, preferably in Asia
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding at strategic level of the international development sector, relevant actors, advisory practice and capacity building.
- Fluency in English

The Country Director is a high level international post with attractive compensation package including good salary and allowances (education, relocation, housing, etc.). Detailed position and country profiles can be downloaded from www.merc.org. MERC has been commissioned to facilitate the recruitment process of both posts. Interested parties please send your CV to suchat@merc.org or hr@merc.org

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According to a Frost & Sullivan research, the Philippines will be among the largest markets for outsourced services in the Asia Pacific for the next 5 to 7 years. **Not surprisingly, Medical Transcription is expected to drive the growth.** In fact, the Philippines is projected to fill in 47% of the supply gap in the US transcription market in the year 2007.

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Call us today and book a seat in one of our free Career Orientation Seminars.

Why MT, Why PX1?

- ☑ MTs are in short supply. With demand projected to grow by 20% annually, a career in MT provides a high level of job security, with competitive pay.
- ☑ MT is a portable skill. A career in MT offers the possibility of working locally or abroad.
- ☑ Our MT curriculum was developed in collaboration with SPI Technologies, and is anchored on the best practices of the US medical transcription industry.
- ☑ To reinforce quality standards, we commission the services of licensed MDs and experienced MT practitioners to be our

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Pearl Drive cor. Lourdes St.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

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Tropical Retail Co., Inc.

A young dynamic retail company is currently in need of:

Accounting/Admin Assistant

Requirements:

- Responsible for providing General Accounting/admin functions
- Male/Female 22 - 30 years old;
- Bachelor's/College Degree in Finance/Accountancy/Banking or equivalent, CPA an advantage;
- 1-2 years experience in General Accounting including Bookkeeping with administrative support background;
- Knowledge of MS office applications and accounting software;
- Knowledge in filing of reports with the government agencies such as SEC, BIR, SSS, Pag-ibig, PhilHealth, etc;
- Good verbal and written communication skills, can compose routine reports;
- Ability to plan, organize, prioritize and schedule work assignments and projects under minimum supervision and to preserve confidential information;
- High level of customer service orientation;
- Ability to handle multi-tasks in a fast paced environment without sacrificing the quality of work;
- Ability to maintain cooperative working relationships with management, supervisors, and co-workers.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS are requested to send their resumes to:

**Ghen Flamiano at 4th Floor Dominion Bldg.
833 Arnaiz Ave. Makati, 8136617
or e-mail jlax@i-manila.com.ph**

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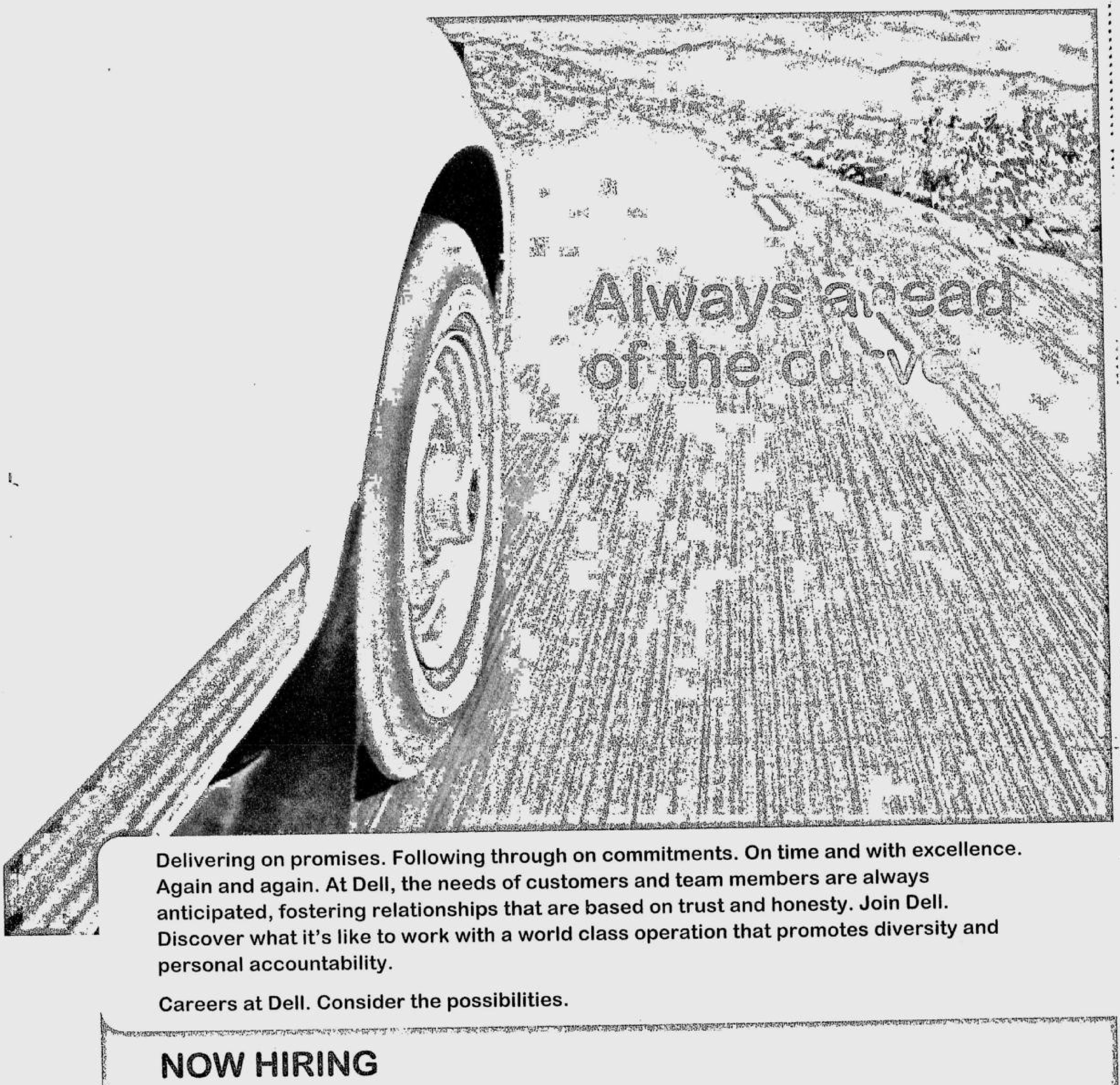

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Dell, America's Most Admired Company, is extending its worldwide network of call centers to Metro Manila. We are hiring more than 200 Technical Support Agents to support our global customers who use Dell products for home entertainment and education.

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You will be responsible for identifying customer's financial needs and assisting them in finding the best solutions to their requirements. You will also be responsible for deposit growth, new accounts development, loan bookings and customer relationship management.

Qualifications:

- **Branch Managers** – Banking experience preferably in Retail Branch Banking.
- **Relationship Officers** – At least 2 years experience in Consumer Sales.

Applicants must have initiative, superior communication and relationship-building skills and a high level of customer service orientation. Proficiency in Fookien / Mandarin a plus.

Positions are for the following branches:

Metro Manila – Alabang, Ermita, Congressional, Sucat, Banawe / Del Monte, Legaspi Village, Las Piñas, Pasong Tamo, Gilmore San Juan (Ort Ave), T. Morato, Shaw, Rockwell, Cainta, Cubao, Global City / Taguig, NAIA 3, Tutuban, Binondo
South Luzon – San Pablo, Cavite, Batangas
North Luzon - Baguio, Dagupan, Pampanga, Bulacan
VizMin - Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Iloilo.

ASSET SALES

- **Relationship Managers – Real Estate Loans (CTS – Contract - to - Sell)**
  - You will be responsible for soliciting, developing and managing relationships with real estate developers to acquire residential real estate loan portfolios. At least 2 years of relevant residential real estate experience is a prerequisite for this position.
- **Acquisitions Head – Direct/Tele Sales**
  - You will be in charge of supervising and directing the Direct/Tele Sales Channel Managers. Extensive experience in Direct/Tele Sales is a must.
- **Tele Sales Managers**
  - You will be tasked to develop the Direct/Tele Sales Channel to acquire and grow the personal/salary loan portfolio. A successful candidate must have at least 2 years experience in Direct/Tele Sales (experience in Card Sales is an advantage).

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Treasury
Bank Operations
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Finance
Human Resources
Risk and Credit
Technology
General Services
Compliance
Legal

If interested, you may submit your comprehensive resume, transcript of records and 2X2 pictures marked and addressed either by email to: maia.capule@citigroup.com or by regular mail to:

Human Resources Department
6/F Universal Reinsurance (Unire) Building. 106 Paseo de Roxas cor. Perea St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

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POWERTRAIN SALES ENGINEER (Code: CBD-01)

* Male, B.S. Mechanical/Industrial or Naval/Marine Engineering graduate.
* With at least 2 years work experience in sales and marketing.
* Technical experience in powertrain diesel engine is a plus.
* Excellent communication and presentation skills. Proficient with MS Office applications.
* Results-oriented, team player and trustworthy.

PLANNING AND COLLECTION STAFF (Code: CBD-02)

* Male/Female, graduate of any business course
* With at least 2 years work experience in a customer service or manufacturing firm
* Excellent communication skills. Proficient with MS Office applications
* Results-oriented, team player and trustworthy.

TECHNICAL ENGINEER (Code: CBD-03)

* Male, B.S. Mechanical Engineering graduate
* With at least 2 years work experience in the development and marketing of products.
* Customer service orientation gained from service or manufacturing firms.
* Technical know-how in AutoCad is a plus
* Results-oriented, team player and trustworthy.

ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS STAFF/SUPERVISOR (Code: DND-01)

* Male/Female, Advertising, Marketing or Communications graduate.
* With at least 2 years work experience in advertising and promotions
* Excellent communication and presentation skills. Proficient with MS Office applications.
* Knowledgeable in graphic design is a plus.
* Results-oriented, team player and trustworthy.

PRODUCT PLANNING STAFF (Code: DND-02)

* Male, Engineering, Marketing or Communications graduate
* Excellent communication and presentation skills. Proficient with MS Office applications and graphic software. Experience in conducting market research is a plus.
* Results-oriented, team player and trustworthy

HUMAN RESOURCES SUPERVISOR (Code: ADMIN-01)

* Male/Female, B.S. Psychology or Behavioral Sciences graduate.
* With at least 3 years supervisory work experience gained from service or manufacturing firms.
* Knowledgeable in Compensation & Benefits, Employee Relations and Personnel Info System.
* Excellent communication skills. Proficient with MS Office applications
* Results-oriented, team player and trustworthy.

OFFICE STAFF (Code: ADMIN-02)

* Graduate of any Engineering, Business, Psychology and other related courses.
* Excellent communication skills. Proficient with MS Office applications.
* Has good learning attitude and with or without experience.

You may submit your application letter (with code) and resume with your recent picture to:

Isuzu Philippines Corporation
114 Technology Ave., Phase 2,
Laguna Technopark Incorporated, Biñan, Laguna

or e-mail/fax at
hrs@isuzuphil.com/02-8420202 or 049-5410333

Deadline for submission is on Wednesday, 07 December 2005.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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CREDIT STAFF

Qualifications:

- College graduate with background in Finance or Accounting
- Preferably with office experience

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- Assists the Credit Assistants in facilitating credit approval of all advertisements that includes ads through agencies, direct clients and others.

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably Psychology or a Behavioral Science course
- At least 1 year experience in benefits administration
- Familiar with labor standards and government-mandated benefits. Knows how to use office software. Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Social Skills, Report Writing Skills, Customer Service Skills
- Knowledge of first-aid

PRE-PRESS SPECIALIST

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably with background in Computer
- With solid layout and design skills set in a newspaper publishing environment
- Advanced knowledge in Photoshop, Illustrator, Freehand, Corel Draw, Pagemaker and Acrobat
- Understanding in color management systems
- Fluent in both Windows OS and Macintosh environments

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Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
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PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization in Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Project Communications Specialist

Background:

The PRISM project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved. It is the main activity for achieving Intermediate Result (IR) 2, "Provision of quality services by private and commercial providers expanded." PRISM also supports IR 4, "Policy environment and financing for provision of services improved." The project focuses on three components: increased workplace support for FP services and referrals; establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives; and increased business value of family planning among private practice providers.

Under the supervision of the Project Support and Administration Director, PRISM has a project support and administration unit (PSAU) which is comprised of the following: finance and administration, project communications, subcontracts, grants, and information technology. The PSAU provides support to the strategic planning unit and also the field operations unit which has regional operations in Visayas, Mindanao, and Luzon.

The project communications specialist will have primary responsibility for the project's external relations to USAID, including writing success stories and reporting on project activities. The specialist also will provide editorial services for other communications initiatives as needed.

Tasks:

1. Liaises with the communications team, technical directors, field operations staff, and other project staff to identify opportunities to market PRISM through success stories or other communications products to external audiences, including USAID, stakeholders, and project beneficiaries.
2. With the communications director, develops PRISM project style guide and regularly updates staff on grammar and style guidelines.
3. Serves as ad hoc project editor, applying PRISM standards and guidelines to reports and ensuring quality of written materials.
4. Helps develop and deliver tools and training that build PRISM staff capacity in project reporting, including success story writing, event documentation, and photography.
5. Identifies, writes, and edits articles for USAID's "Telling Our Story" initiative and for USAID/Philippines' Weekly.
6. Ensures compliance of project materials with USAID branding standards.
7. Liaises with Chemonics home-office departments to promote the PRISM project to internal and external audiences by generating content for the company's Web site and intranet.
8. Writes and edits quarterly and annual reports, and other project related reports as needed.
9. Manages the process for gathering the technical and progress information needed for the annual and quarterly reports from relevant staff.
10. Serves as reporter for PRISM workshops and conferences and gives input on design for PRISM events.
11. Assists with PRISM communications initiatives.
12. Assists the COP and DCOP to respond to written informational requests from USAID.
13. Completes other tasks and assignments as deemed appropriate by the chief of party, the deputy chief of party, the project support and administration unit director, and the PRISM communications team.
14. Ensures Chemonics.com and Chemonics.net content on PRISM is correct and up to date.

Reporting:

The project communications specialist will report directly to the director of the project support and administration unit or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the specialist's overall performance.

Qualifications:

- Journalist-level proficiency in written and spoken English.
- Minimum 8 years English writing and editing experience, with a broad range of writing skills in any of the following areas: mass media, advertising, technical writing, marketing and promotion, creative writing, business writing, and progress reporting.
- Proven ability to develop and disseminate articles and project related reports.
- Ability to make independent decisions and work as a team player.
- Excellent interpersonal, coordination and organization skills.
- Previous experience writing for a donor-funded project in the health and/or social development sectors strongly preferred.
- B.A. in English, communications, journalism or other related field.
- Ability to use Microsoft applications to include: MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Outlook.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter and CV at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 7th of December 2005. Please indicate the **subject** of your email as **"Position Code: PCS"**.

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- Work experience in call centers an advantage

Salary:

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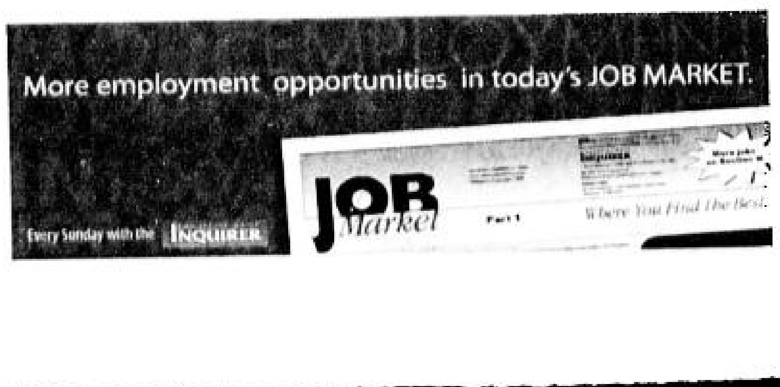

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Carpenter	30
Mason	30
Welder	20
Heavy Equipment Driver	10
Crane Operator	10
Quay Crane Operator	10
YC/RTG Operator	10
Tugmaster Operator	5
Twin Trailer Operator	5
Heavy Duty Driver	10
Hatchman	5
Mobile Crane Operator	10

ENGINEERING

Electrical Supervisor	5
Electrical Foreman	5
Electronic Technician	10
Crane Mechanic	10
Crane Electrician	10
Mechanic (workshop)	5
Plant Mechanic	5
Storekeeper	5
Tyre Fitter	5
Welder	5
Helper (Mechanic)	5

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HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree;
- At least 5 years experience in similar capacity in a multinational setting;
- Must be detail oriented and has very strong organization skills ;
- Excellent communication skills, extensive people interaction necessary;
- Demonstrated ability to motivate, develop and direct people as they work,
- Highly analytical with strong business sense to support operational needs;
- Very strong computer skills, particularly Lotus Notes, MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in any field;
- At least 3 years experience in similar capacity;
- Highly organized, and has the ability to act immediately on changing priorities;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, able to work with people in all levels;
- Very strong computer skills, particularly Lotus Notes, MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Interested applicants should:

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Abbott Laboratories Philippines
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OR

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- Life Insurance background is preferred but not required
- Must be resourceful, flexible, fast learner and possess good communication skills.

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- Possess excellent communication and presentation skills
- Flexibility and willingness to travel within the Philippines and abroad.
- Computer Literate

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THIRD SECTION OF JOBMARKET PEOPLE AT WORK ON PAGES 4 & 5

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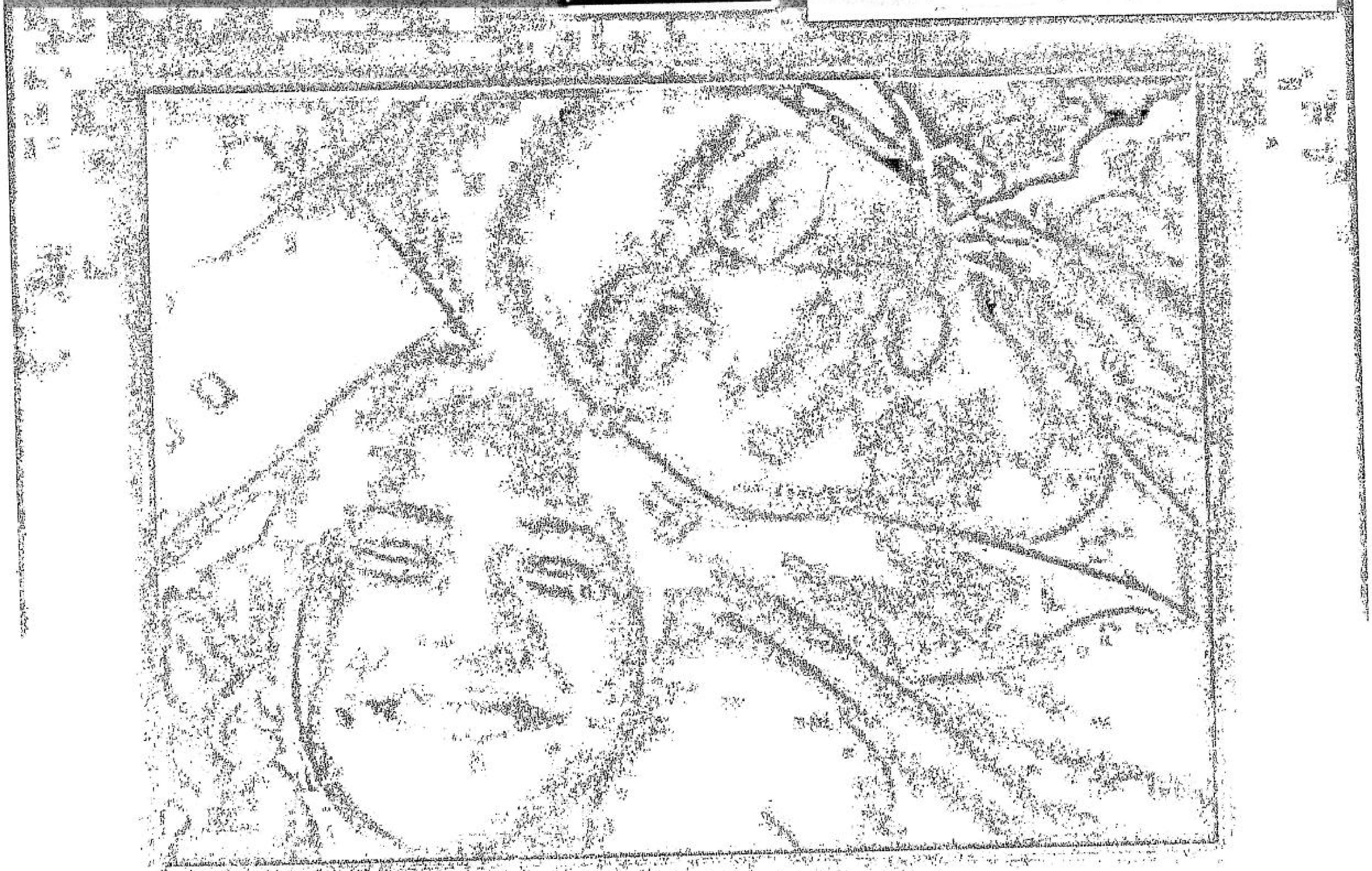

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PRISM
PRIVATE SECTOR MOBILIZATION FOR FAMILY PLANNING

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Private Sector Mobilization for Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Grants Coordinator

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, *Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved*, focusing on three components: 1) increased **workplace** support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass **market** brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among **private practice** providers.

Under the supervision of a senior operations director, PRISM has three independent regional divisions: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Each division is headed by a regional director and staffed by component specialists (CSs), regional operations managers, and a field support team. Within each geographic division, PRISM focuses implementation efforts in Strategic Intervention Areas (SIAs), and each SIA is staffed with a Family Planning Coordinator (FPC) who is responsible for coordinating and managing PRISM activities in their area.

PRISM is implementing a grants program as a strategy to engage private organizations to actively participate in activities leading towards the establishment of a healthy and competitive market for FP products and services.

The Grants Program is implemented nationwide and is intended to reach private sector organizations which maybe business associations, professional organizations, non-government organizations, trade unions, labor unions, etc.

Due to the intended wide coverage of activities under the grant program particularly at the field level, PRISM is hiring an additional staff to provide professional services as a Grants Coordinator.

General Tasks:

The Grants Coordinator will

1) Ensure efficient coordination of all activities related to the grants program at the field level;
2) Provide relevant and updated information about the grants program and solicitations issued to potential and existing grantees.
3) Coordinate necessary technical assistance for grantees to ensure successful implementation of the grant.
4) Assist in ensuring standardized implementation of the grants program, and each of its solicitations, across all of PRISM's SIAs.

Specific Tasks:

Coordination

1. Determine appropriate schedules and assist in the logistical arrangements for conduct of regional grant orientations, pre-proposal submission briefings, grant proposal development trainings and all other activities related to grants at the field level. Provide Senior Grants Manager with an updated monthly schedule of activities per area;
2. Keep track of reports/documents submitted by grantees, maintain tracking tool to record the status of submission. Follow up submission if necessary in coordination with appropriate PRISM Field Operations Manager or Specialist;
3. Maintain a database of prospective and active grantees per area. The information to be included in the database should conform to the requirements set by the PRISM HMIS Specialist;
4. Follow-up on the submission of grantee applications;
5. Serve as point of contact for grantees in the field; communicate with Grants team to find appropriate solutions/answers to questions.

Information Dissemination

1. Maintain and update soft and hard copies of all grant materials intended for partners and grantees;
2. Provide relevant grant information (solicitations, handbooks, grant info materials, etc) to prospective grant applicants, attend orientation to discuss the grants program, if necessary;
3. Update the PRISM Grant Yahoo Group with relevant information on what is happening at the field level.

Technical Work

1. Determine challenges/successes encountered by grantees in all aspects of grants making (application, implementation, to close-out) and report findings to Grants Manager;
2. Determine bottlenecks in grants program implementation at the field level and report findings to Grants Manager;
3. Identify and report potential grantee "success stories" to Grants Manager and Project Communications Specialist.

Other Tasks:

Under the guidance of the Grants Manager, prepare solicitation documents for issuances to be made at the regional level.

Qualifications:

1. College graduate, masteral degree preferred but not required
2. Minimum of five years experience in project management or in monitoring and evaluation for health development projects
3. Preferably worked with USAID-funded projects particularly on grants
4. Excellent in verbal and written communications
5. Team player
6. Proficient in various computer applications e.g. word processing, spreadsheets, including preparation of graphs, table and charts

Reporting:

The Grants Coordinator will report to the Field Support Manager, or their designee.

Interested applicants should e-mail their application letter at jobs@prism.org.ph on or before 7th of December 2005. Please indicate the **subject** of your email as **"Position Code: GC"**.

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The Private Sector Mobilization in Family Planning (PRISM) Project
Scope of Work

Communications Director

Background:

The PRISM Project supports USAID/Philippines' Strategic Objective 3, Desired family size and improved health sustainably achieved. It is the main activity for achieving 1R2, Provision of quality services by private and commercial providers expanded by focusing on three components: 1) increased workplace support for FP services and referrals, 2) establishment of viable, mass market brands of hormonal contraceptives, and 3) increased business value of FP among private practice providers. PRISM also supports JR 4, Policy environment and financing for provision of services improved.

Under the supervision of the deputy chief of party, PRISM has a strategic planning unit which is comprised of the following components: policy and information, workplace initiatives, market development, private practice, and communications. Each component is headed by a director and staffed by component specialists and advisors. Each component provides strategic planning and guidance to the field operations unit which has regional operations in Visayas, Mindanao, and Luzon.

The communications director will manage the overall development and implementation of PRISM's communications activities.

Tasks:

1. Provide overall strategic management of PRISM's communications initiatives and campaigns in support of project goals.
2. Manage PRISM communications team and work with partner organization staff, consultants, vendors and subcontractors to develop communication plans, ensure successful and timely implementation of plans, monitor and evaluate activities, and ensure adherence to USAID and PRISM guidelines.
3. Liaise with communications staff in the Field Support Team and the Project Support and Administration Unit to ensure incorporation of communications services and products within project activities as necessary.
4. Coordinate communications activities with other USAID-funded projects.
5. Manage the budget assigned to communications activities by each component and for the project as a whole.
6. Provide creative ideas for using communications tools to improve the effectiveness of PRISM activities.
7. Provide content management and design consultation on communications materials.
8. Provide technical training related to communication strategies and other areas to PRISM partner organizations.
9. Build the capacity of the PRISM and partner organization staff through mentoring and knowledge transfer.
10. In collaboration with the subcontracts specialist, play the lead role in preparing and awarding RFPs for creative service vendors.
11. Prepare reports on communications activities, expenses, results, and effectiveness for the Deputy Chief of Party.
12. Assist in preparation of reports to USAID as needed.
13. Make presentations to public and private health organizations, professional groups, and others.
14. Edit communications materials, and other program materials for style and clarity.
15. With project communications specialist, develop PRISM Project style guide and regularly update staff on grammar and style guidelines.
16. Assist project communications specialist to identify articles for USAID/Philippines' Weekly and for USAID's Telling our Story initiative.
17. Complete other tasks and assignments as deemed appropriate by the chief of party and the deputy chief of party.

Reporting:

The communications director will report directly to the deputy chief of party or her designee, who will be responsible for monitoring the director's overall performance.

Qualifications:

- Excellent management and organization skills.
- Minimum 10 years of experience working in PR and/or communications.
- Minimum 6 years management experience.
- Minimum 5 years English writing and editing experience.
- Excellent layout design and "packaging" skills.
- Ability to make independent decisions and work as a team player.
- Proven ability to elicit cooperation from senior staff and credibility as a communications expert.
- Excellent interpersonal and coordination skills.
- B.A. in communications, marketing or related field.
- Ability to use Microsoft applications to include: MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Outlook.

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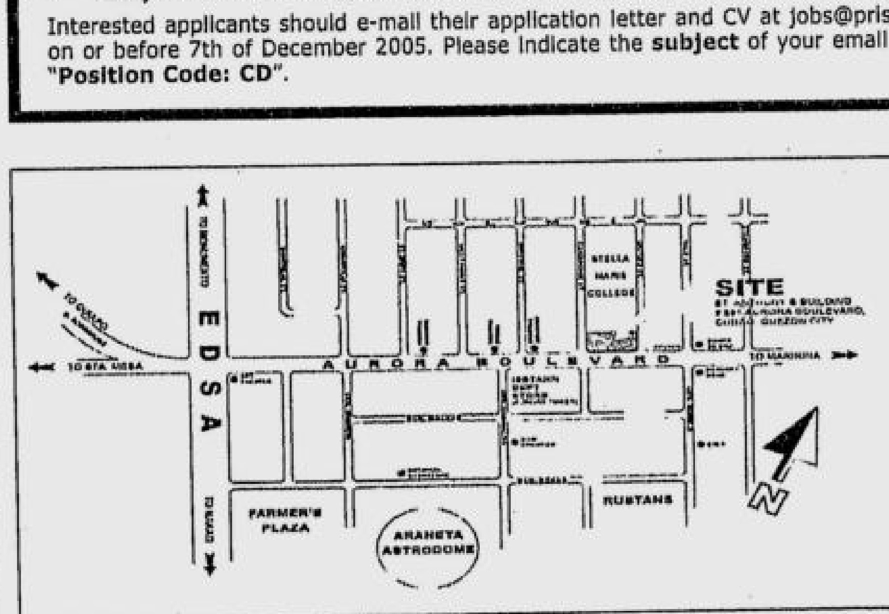

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- Highly analytical and process-oriented

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Job Code: PRC

He shall be responsible for over-all coordination with Client, Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing/Fire Protection and Structural (MEPS) engineering consultants from conceptual to contract stages. He shall be in-charge of design review, quality control and timely submission of project deliverables of MEPS consultants.

- College degree in architecture preferred
- Professional registration required
- At least 7 years experience in high-rise design and construction documentation required
- Design-related computer literacy and proficiency required
- Willing to travel
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

SENIOR ARCHITECT

Job Code: SEA

He shall be responsible for over-all conceptualization and design development of various project types. He shall ensure design quality control during conceptual design up to documentation.

- College degree in architecture
- Professional registration required
- At least 7 years experience in various project types
- Proficiency in Autocad 2004/2005 required
- International exposure an advantage
- Willing to travel
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Job Code: IND

He shall be responsible for over-all conceptualization and design development of various project types. He shall ensure design quality control during conceptual design up to documentation.

- College degree in interior design
- Professional registration required
- At least 5 years experience in hospitality retail, high-end residential and corporate projects
- Proficiency in Autocad 2004/2005 required
- International exposure an advantage
- Willing to travel abroad
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required

DESIGN OFFICER

Job Code: DEO

He/she shall be responsible for design development for various project types, i.e. architecture or interior design.

- College degree in architecture or interior design
- Freehand rendering capabilities an advantage
- Professional registration preferred
- At least 3 years experience in required
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required

CADD DESIGNER

Job Code: CAD

He/she shall be primarily responsible for generating working drawings.

- College degree in architecture
- At least 3 years experience in construction documentation for architecture (preferably high-rise) or interior design preferred
- Proficiency in AutoCAD 2004/2005 required
- Proficiency in modeling and graphic/rendering software an advantage

ASST. PROJECT MANAGER/ PROJECT MANAGER

Job Code: PRM

He will organize and lead the project team in the delivery of project management services from pre-design to post-construction stage. He will be responsible in overseeing construction projects on site and head office support services. He must possess the ability to identify and resolve changes and conflicts in design and construction. He must know how to establish and maintain good working relationships with clients, consultants, contractors, and property managers.

- College graduate of BS Architecture or BS CE
- 5-8 years experience in project and construction management
- Proficiency in written and oral communication

PROJECT OFFICER/ENGINEER

Job Code: PRE

He shall be responsible for construction supervision/inspection. He shall undertake project management and shall ensure design quality control during project implementation.

- College degree in Electrical Engineering and /or Mechanical Engineering
- Professional registration preferred
- With 3 years experience
- Exposure in construction & fit-out preferred
- International exposure an advantage
- Computer literacy and proficiency preferred

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Job Code: SMO

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- 28 – 35 yrs old
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- Have existing management level client contacts

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How do you make change at work?

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I'VE BEEN ASKED to lead a change effort in my department. I don't even know where to begin.

No Change

I was captivated by e.e. cumings when I was in high school. Remember he was the poet who wrote all of his poems in lower case. I decided that I liked that he was breaking the rules, so I started to follow his lead. My English teacher reminded me that it was important to know the rules before you start breaking them.

It upset me at the time, but she did have a point. It's no different when it comes to change at work. Before you can get out your white piece of paper to create a new way to get the job done, you've got to know what currently is working and why. I've listed some of the other keys to leading a successful change process below. For more check out, "10 Natural Force" by Peter Garber (Davies Black, 2002).

Do you understand how things are currently being done and why? The status quo is there for a darn good reason, it often works. It just might not be the best way, the most efficient way or the smartest way to operate. But before you throw the baby out with the bathwater, do some digging to find out everything you can about the current approach.

Do you seek advice from unconventional sources? The corporate tradition is to round up the usual suspects when you want to improve how things are being done. I'm a big believer in getting peripheral staff involved, vendors, input from other departments, customers and even company troublemakers involved.

Do you always seek to reinvent the wheel? Again, chances are good that some parts of the existing operation are actually working. So don't just throw stuff overboard for the sake of change. Keeping some constants in the organization will also provide necessary stability for people who are struggling to adjust.

Do you change the metrics? There are many rules in business that no longer apply. For example, the best way to make more money is to raise prices. The airlines learned that by lowering fares they actually made more money by increasing market share. What notions do you have about your business that are outdated?

Do you have a plan for dealing with the corporate immune system? Innovation expert Gifford Pinchot coined the term corporate immune system to describe the tendency in organizations to destroy anything that is perceived as a threat. Develop contingency plans for dealing with the immune system and for getting from point A to point B when the shortest route is blocked.

Do you know when to give up? There are times when the cost of a change far outweigh any benefits. At these times it makes sense to swallow your pride, declare defeat and start looking for new opportunities.

Follow these tips and your success will be in all caps for the world to see.

Put an end to the cycle of poverty in Payatas!

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM INTERESTED IN THE work of Mr. Lorenzo Veneracion, the retired Manila RTC judge, whose letter appeared in your column. I am particularly interested in sponsoring the education of one or two children. However, I think there is something more we can do, something very basic that could put an end to the cycle of poverty at least in Payatas.

I was in Payatas myself two Saturdays ago. I went with a group of Korean Catholic nuns who do mission work among the Payatas children every Saturday morning. They give the children (and some adult residents) a haircut, trim their nails, wash their hair, clean their wounds—all these to let the children value personal hygiene and cleanliness in spite of the filth around them that they have become so accustomed to. The children are also taught songs and catechism. Toward noontime the children swell in number as resident-volunteers serve lunch brought by the nuns.

While the nuns' work is laudable, as well as that of Mr. Veneracion and his group, the deplorable living conditions in Payatas can be improved if only each of us would care to handle our waste materials responsibly. Both the national and local governments must also have the political will to enforce waste segregation at all levels (i.e., households, institutions like hospitals, seminaries, schools; offices and factories; etc). If we could do this (and definitely we could if we put our hearts to it) there would be no mountains of garbage like Payatas where people live in subhuman conditions just to make a living out of other people's wastes.

Through your column, I would like to call on all concerned Filipinos, especially members of environmental groups to get our act together and implement waste segregation now.

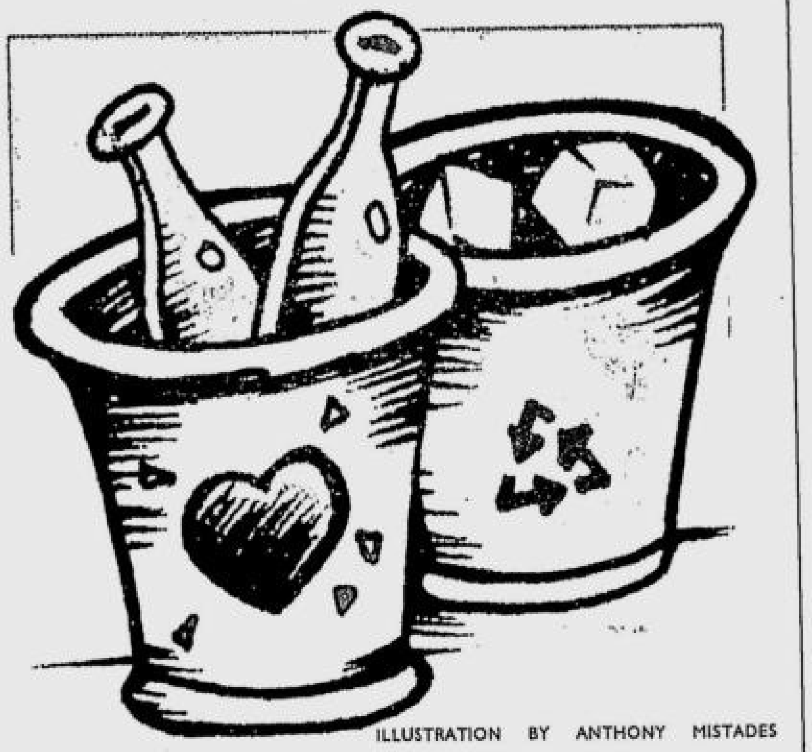


ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Let us think that for every piece of waste we discard, we think of the disadvantaged child or parent who scavenges in garbage dumps for anything of value just to be able to buy something to fill an empty stomach. And when we do this, we try to keep our refuse neat and orderly; we segregate reusable and recyclable materials from those that are not. The former can then be a collected house to house by those who would otherwise be scavenging in garbage dumps, this time with dignity and self-respect. In the process, a much cleaner environment

PUT/P.5★★★

'Somebody is blocking my career'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

I WAS TRANSFERRED to a new department almost a year ago. I try to do a great job every time, but it seems that somebody in this department is becoming a stumbling block in my career.

Whenever our boss wants us to complete a project, big or small, this person always blocks my ideas, disagrees with me, and never supports me. I don't think she is innately a bad person, because she can be very supportive and helpful to my other teammates. Sometimes, I feel that she even wants me to see how different she treats my other teammates.

What should I so to ensure that I succeed in my career in spite of this person who seems to stand in the way? Shall I seek to transfer to another department? Shall I tell my boss about her?

Helpless

This sounds like a familiar scenario to many of people at work. Occasionally, you will meet people who might stand in the way of your success. There are a number of ways to deal with them. But first, my usual reminder to those who are in a similar predicament is "Never give up."

Don't give up

If you truly want a great career, never give up when someone stands in the way. Take it as a challenge and overcome it. It is just like driving and you see an animal on the road right in front of you. You have several options—take a detour, ignore it and go on but try to avoid it, talk to it to get out of your way or run over it. When you're driving and this happens, you don't back off, go home and just forego with your trip. Usually, you will treat this incident as a temporary situation. Maybe it takes some time, but you will usually get over this and move on in your journey.

You can't please everybody

No matter how careful you are about stepping on other's toes, you will sometimes unintentionally do it one time or another. When you are aggressive about your ideas or tend to push hard to achieve your goals or that of your department, you might irritate someone. Especially in a group effort, not everybody will agree with your idea, how to do it, when to do it, where to do it, or who will do it.

Some people are also threatened when someone, especially a new team member, comes up with great ideas. New ideas, more work, or different ways of doing things can unsettle people who are wallowing in their comfort zones. When some people see that you are succeeding or likely to succeed, they might feel that your success can make them look bad, especially if you are a new kid on the block.

Criticism has value

It is not unusual for people to criticize you or your ideas when yours don't jive with theirs. This is what losers usually do—criticize. Winners usually analyze.

Whenever you get criticized, stop a while and think about what is said. Forget first who said it and how it is said. Some people are well-meaning when they criticize, but the tone can be threatening or demeaning. Just focus on the message. Who knows, but you might find the criticism to be valid and it can help improve your ideas? Some people might already be sold on your ideas, but they continue to ask for details. Some people need to be convinced that your ideas can be implemented without a hitch before they can ride on your ideas completely and wholeheartedly.

Benefit of the doubt

When you meet people who always criticize you or disagree with your ideas, don't react negatively at once. Keep your cool and analyze what they are saying. Don't second-guess their intention. Assume that they

'SOMEBODY/P.5★★★

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Turning dross to gold

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WORK COULD SOMETIMES BE SO ENGROSSING THAT IF you are not careful you'll fall into the trap called TTFG—Taking Things For Granted. At times you get so high, as when you've scored a series of successes—meeting quotas, winning contests, being recognized—and so you go through work "drugged," so to speak, intoxicated, assuming things would run well with the minimum of attention from you. In this state you hardly notice when you're already stepping on people's toes, or getting sloppy about work or being lax with subordinates. And that's not all. More often than not you would be deaf to reminders as well, laughing them off as silly fears. Then one day—wham!—you are put to shame. Your shortcomings are exposed. You get a nasty memo or are fired. You lose credibility among peers; your superiors lose confidence in you. You fall from grace. It's repentance season!

It's like being alone and naked in the desert—you have no one and nothing. Only the memory of your sins—sins of commission or omission—things you did that you shouldn't have done, and things you didn't do but should have done. Nothing drives one down to one's knees harder than this state of nobody-ness. It spells the end.

But in work (as in life), endings can be beautiful beginnings as well. With the right attitude, you humbly admit your negligence, pick up the pieces, and start anew with greater resolve. The best thing about heartfelt repentance is—it performs a kind of alchemy in you. It turns you from dross to gold; it's a new life for a new you. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Mk. 1:1-8

John (the) Baptist appeared in the desert proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

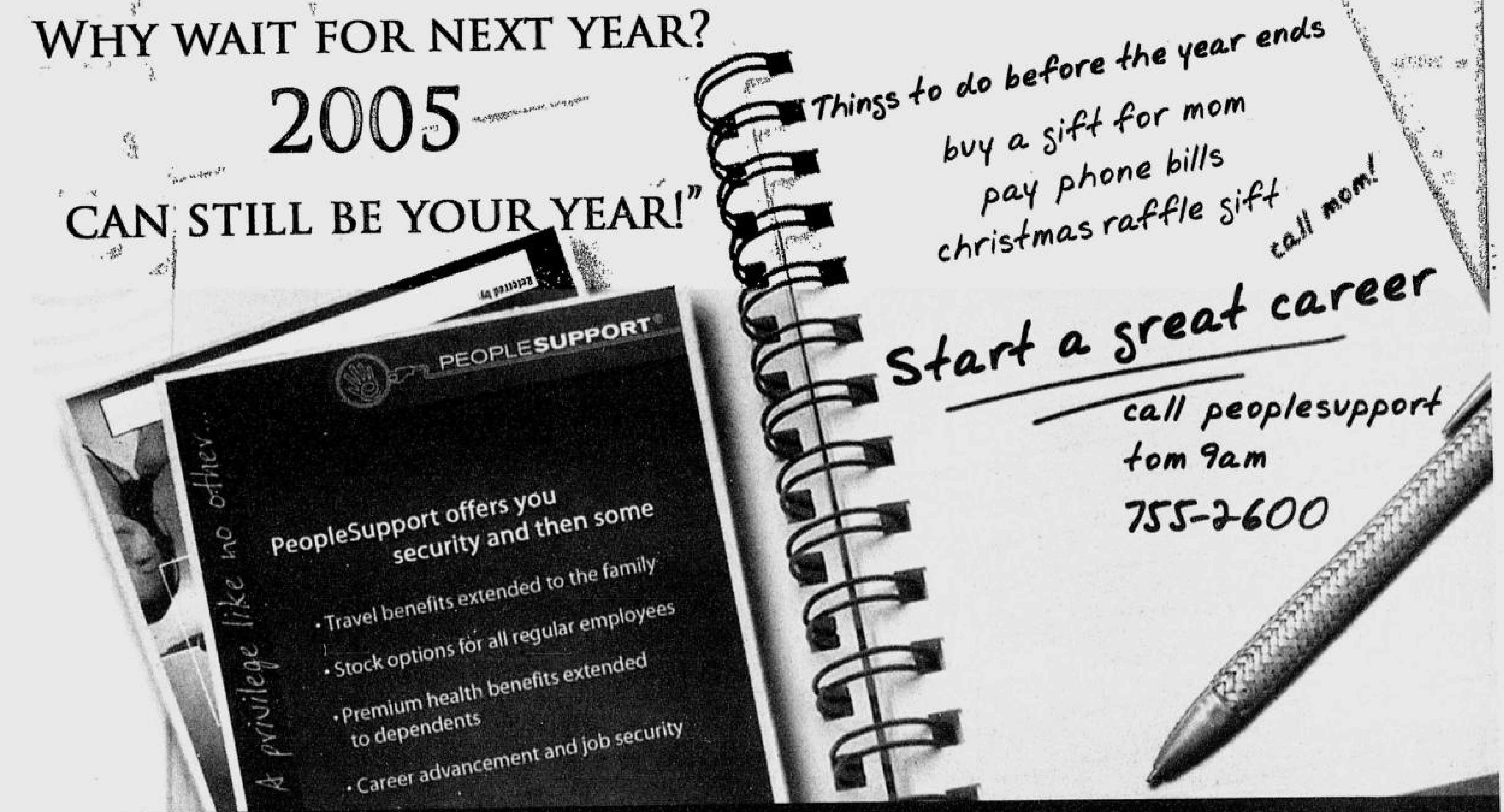
Repentance

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

WHILE ON A SHORT VISIT TO SEOUL, KOREA, I SAW the news on TV about a famous medical researcher who publicly admitted some mistakes in his work and resigned from his post as head of the research center as a concrete sign of his repentance. I was inspired to know that there are still some great leaders who show the example of sincere repentance. Humble admission of one's mistakes or blunders is not very common in everyone especially in the workplace. Sincere repentance and asking forgiveness for wrongdoings committed while in the performance of one's duties could be seen by some as dangerous—jeopardizing job promotion or security. But those who believe in its value could also experience genuine peace, joy and happiness.

Annie, a stewardess, accidentally dropped the notebook computer of one of the passengers in the business class. Since nobody noticed the incident, she hid the mishap from the owner because she feared it might cause the loss of her job. But she was bothered in her conscience during the flight. When they were about to land, she approached the owner of the computer and told him what happened and asked his forgiveness. The owner, a rich businessman, appreciated the humility of Annie and wanted to know more about her. He arranged subsequent meetings with her which led to a marriage proposal.

For an act of repentance and an honest apology, Annie did not only experience peace of mind but also joy and happiness with a loving and caring husband. Repentance is honesty; and as they say, "honesty pays." (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)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'Somebody is blocking my career'

From page 4★★★

mean well and that they truly believe in what they are saying or doing. They might even have the right reasons for opposing you.

You must be tolerant of others who do not share your beliefs and ideas. After all, this world was not made for you alone, and it was not made for your convenience either. This world is simply like that. There are people who are for you or against you. But nothing is permanent. One time they will be for you, other times against you, or vice versa.

Tips

When you think someone is "making a career" out of standing in your way every time, try some of these helpful tips:

1. Before you bring out great ideas, anticipate who will be your supporters and detractors. Bounce off your ideas to some people in both camps. This way you will have a preview of your allies and enemies.

2. Talk to your perceived friends and allies and ask for their support. Strengthen your alliance with these people. Do not put them on the spot and be careful how you nurture their support.

3. Talk to your perceived enemies and detractors. Get to know them better. As I said in my earlier column, "The devil you know is better than the devil you don't know."

4. Tell your perceived enemies that you will understand them if they oppose your ideas. Ask how you can help them see your point. Identify possible differences of opinion and clarify your point. Show willingness to incorporate some of their suggestions into your overall plan.

5. Understand the concerns of your perceived enemies. Try to develop foolproof solutions to ensure that their fears and concerns are well taken care of.

6. Take the first step, go out of your way and make people see that you are willing to understand them. This can disarm people who can make your life miserable. An act of humility can lessen your detractors. Arrogance easily increases their fold.

7. When your detractors feel that you understand them, it is easier for them to understand where you're coming from. They might even offer to meet you halfway. Then the battle is half won.

8. Realize, however, that some people feel miserable in their jobs. Misery loves company. Sometimes, this is the reason why they also want others to feel miserable in their jobs. Don't jump right in and feel that you are the messiah that will remove all their miseries. Handle these people carefully.

9. Treat everybody, friends and enemies, supporters and detractors, with the same respect that you would like them to afford you. Respect begets respect. If you come with your guns blazing, expect a barrage of retaliation.

10. Never give up. Great careers do not happen by accident. You have to have a great dream. You can't have a dream come true unless you first have a dream. You must have the persistence to achieve that dream. If someone stands in the way of a great career, find a way through or around that someone.

The most pathetic thing to happen is to give up a great dream, just because you saw some insignificant thing standing in front of you while you were driving on the road to success... and you felt so helpless about it.

But of course, when all else fails, don't forget that you still have a choice—love it or leave it.

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September 2006. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the Organizing Committee can contact them.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.*)*

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Put an end to the cycle of poverty in Payatas!

From page 4★★★

is obtained for everyone, rich and poor.

The appalling situation in Payatas persists because certain groups of people profit from the status quo. This is the belief of the Payatas residents themselves but they feel helpless to change their lot. This has got to stop! We must not allow the poor to get poorer. It is a big sin.

This letter may not see print but I do hope it reaches Mr. Veneracion and the environmental groups and other concerned individuals. I would like to volunteer my time and effort to a cause that would eradicate the dehumanizing condition in Payatas but I don't know whom to approach or how to go about the gargantuan task, which, nonetheless, is very feasible. Thank you very much. God bless you.

Leticia Pardiñas

Thank you for your insightful letter. I know it will call attention to people and groups who have dedicated their lives to helping the poor as well as those who care for the environment. You are right. The people of Payatas do not need simply palliatives, where we cure the symptoms and ignore the disease. This is not meant to discourage individuals and groups who presently do acts of mercy in the area. For their role is laudable and necessary for as long as the situation does not change.

All of us, both in the private and government need to muster the political will to transform the status quo. Outside of dole outs, what is important I agree, is restoring the dignity of the human person.

I also support the concept and practice of segregating our garbage. It is the main means to reduce what we dump in landfills. I remember when we were younger, every family took care of their own garbage. It was an age where people go to market with "*bayongs* and baskets" and did not need plastic bags for goods bought.

Today, some communities have to take the supreme sacrifice of hosting all our garbage, while most of us keep our communities clean.

I suggest our readers whose sentiments resonate with those of Ms Pardinas can get directly in touch with our reader at lepards@yahoo.com and together put a permanent fix on the challenge of Payatas.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. For advice, e-mail advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel.. nos. 892-2895, 892-2896 and 892-2898)*

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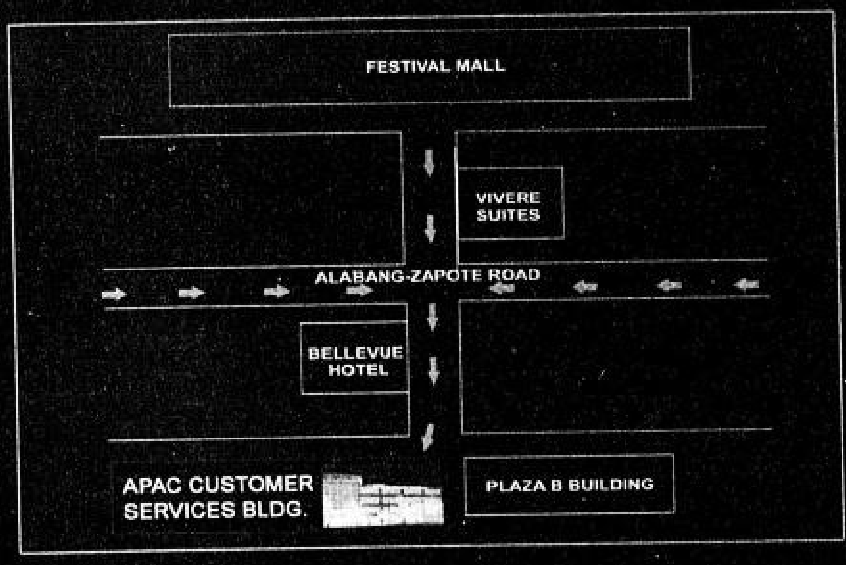

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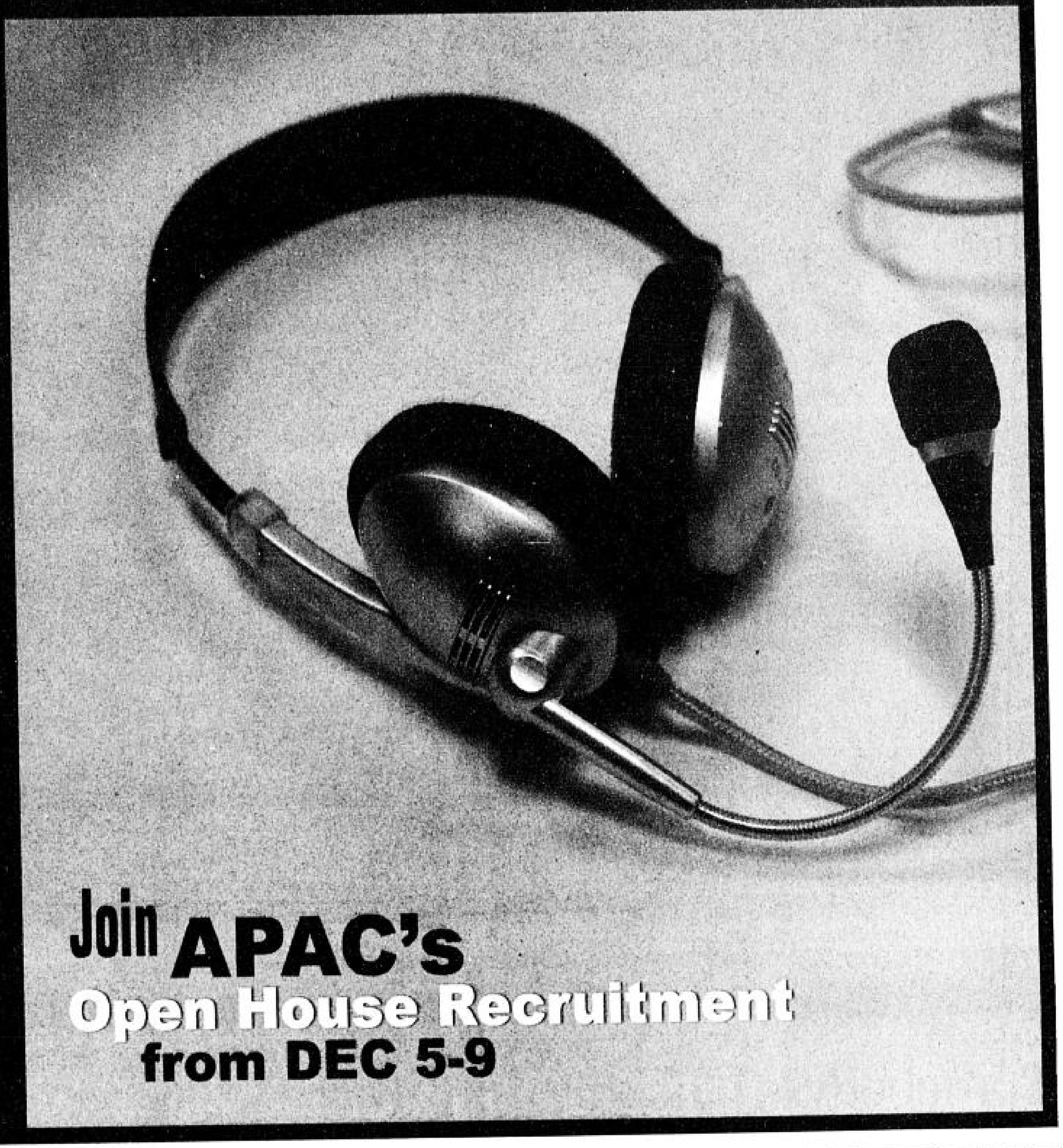

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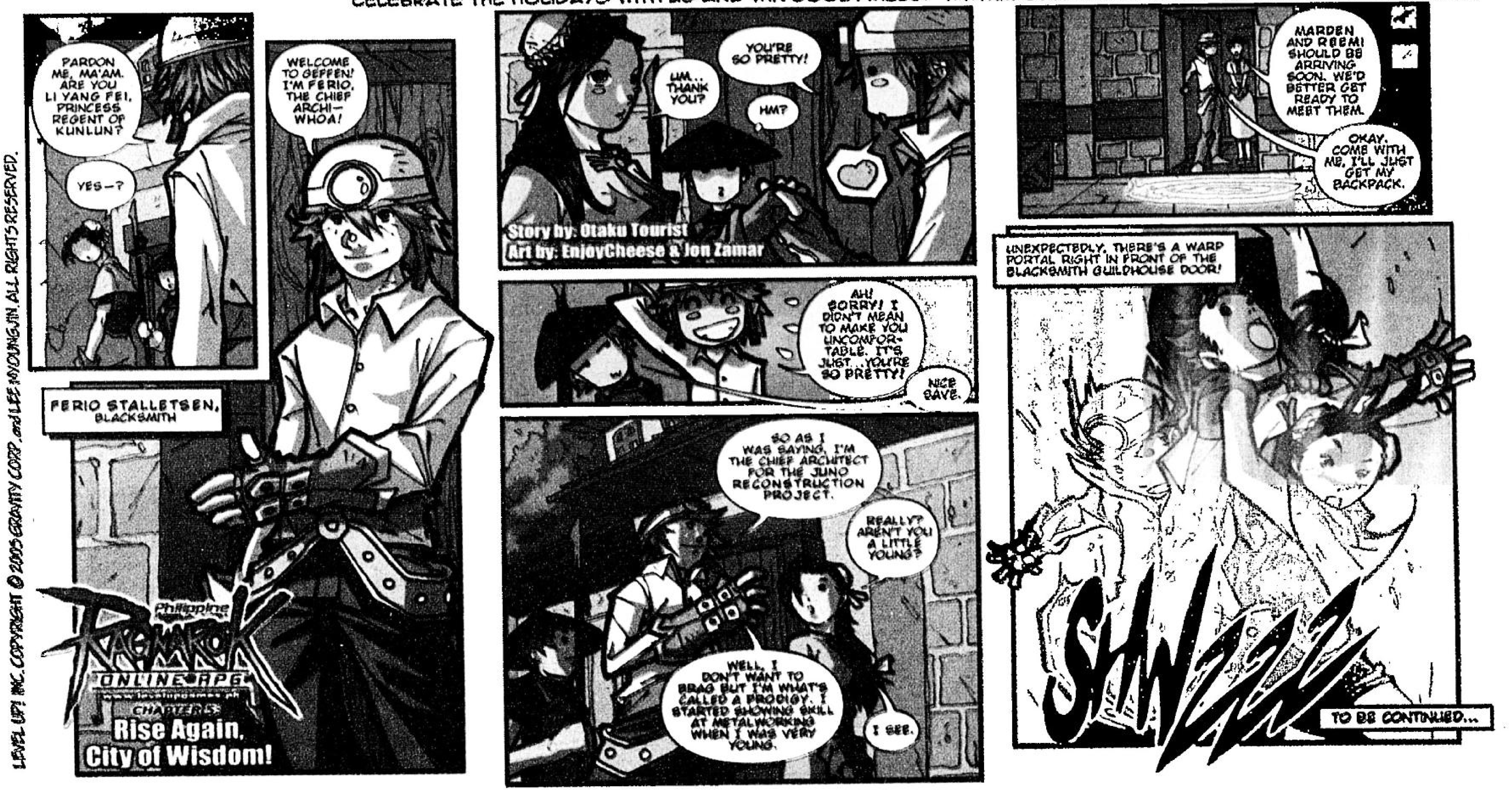
PARDON ME, MA'AM. ARE YOU LI YANG FEI, PRINCESS REGENT OF KUNLUN?
YES—?
WELCOME TO GEFFEN! I'M FERIO, THE CHIEF ARCHI— WHOA!
FERIO STALLETSEN, BLACKSMITH
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CHAPTER 5: Rise Again, City of Wisdom!
YOU'RE SO PRETTY!
UM... THANK YOU?
HM?
Story by: Otaku Tourist
Art by: EnjoyCheese & Jon Zamar
AH! SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE. IT'S JUST.. YOU'RE SO PRETTY!
NICE SAVE.
SO AS I WAS SAYING, I'M THE CHIEF ARCHITECT FOR THE JUNO RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT.
REALLY? AREN'T YOU A LITTLE YOUNG?
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO BRAG BUT I'M WHAT'S CALLED A PRODIGY. I STARTED SHOWING SKILL AT METALWORKING WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.
I SEE.
MARDEN AND REEMI SHOULD BE ARRIVING SOON. WE'D BETTER GET READY TO MEET THEM.
OKAY. COME WITH ME. I'LL JUST GET MY BACKPACK.
UNEXPECTEDLY, THERE'S A WARP PORTAL RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE BLACKSMITH GUILDHOUSE DOOR!
SHWZZZ
TO BE CONTINUED...

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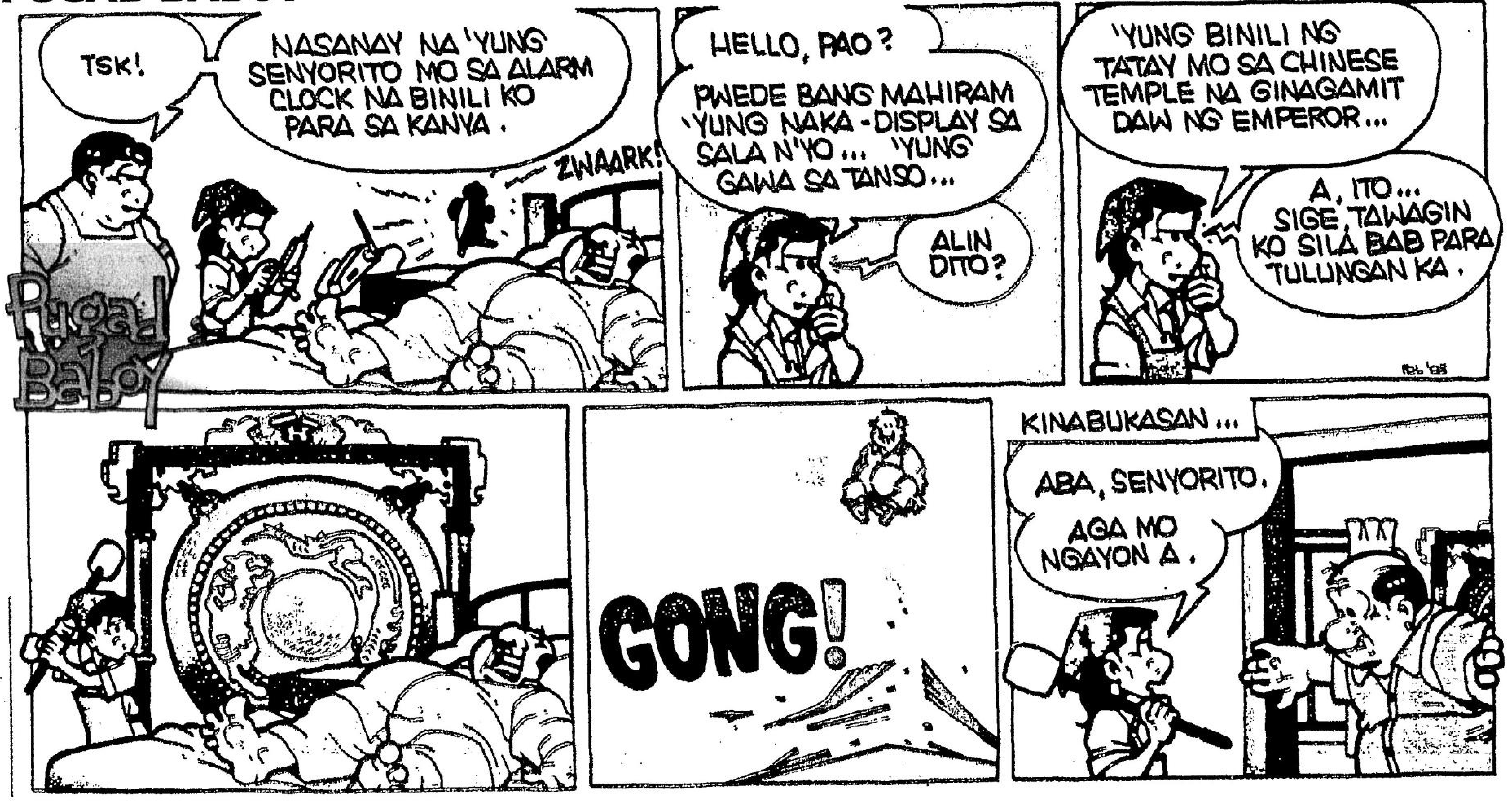
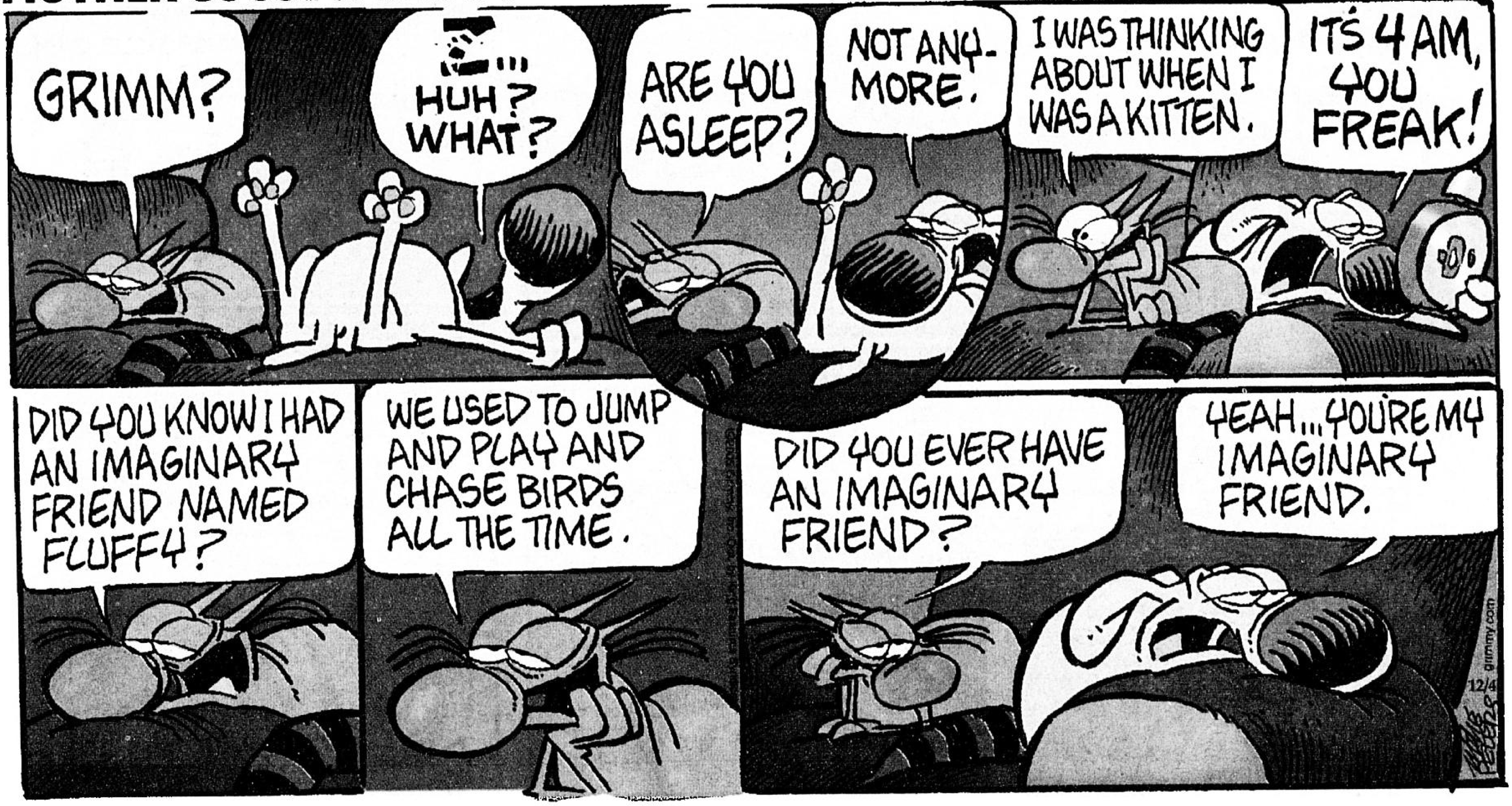
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
TSK!
NASANAY NA 'YUNG SENYORITO MO SA ALARM CLOCK NA BINILI KO PARA SA KANYA.
ZWAARK!
HELLO, PAO?
PWEDE BANG MAHIRAM 'YUNG NAKA-DISPLAY SA SALA N'YO... 'YUNG GAWA SA TANSO...
ALIN DITO?
'YUNG BINILI NG TATAY MO SA CHINESE TEMPLE NA GINAGAMIT DAW NG EMPEROR...
A, ITO... SIGE, TAWAGIN KO SILA BAB PARA TULUNGAN KA.
POL '05
GONG!
KINABUKASAN...
ABA, SENYORITO. AGA MO NGAYON A.

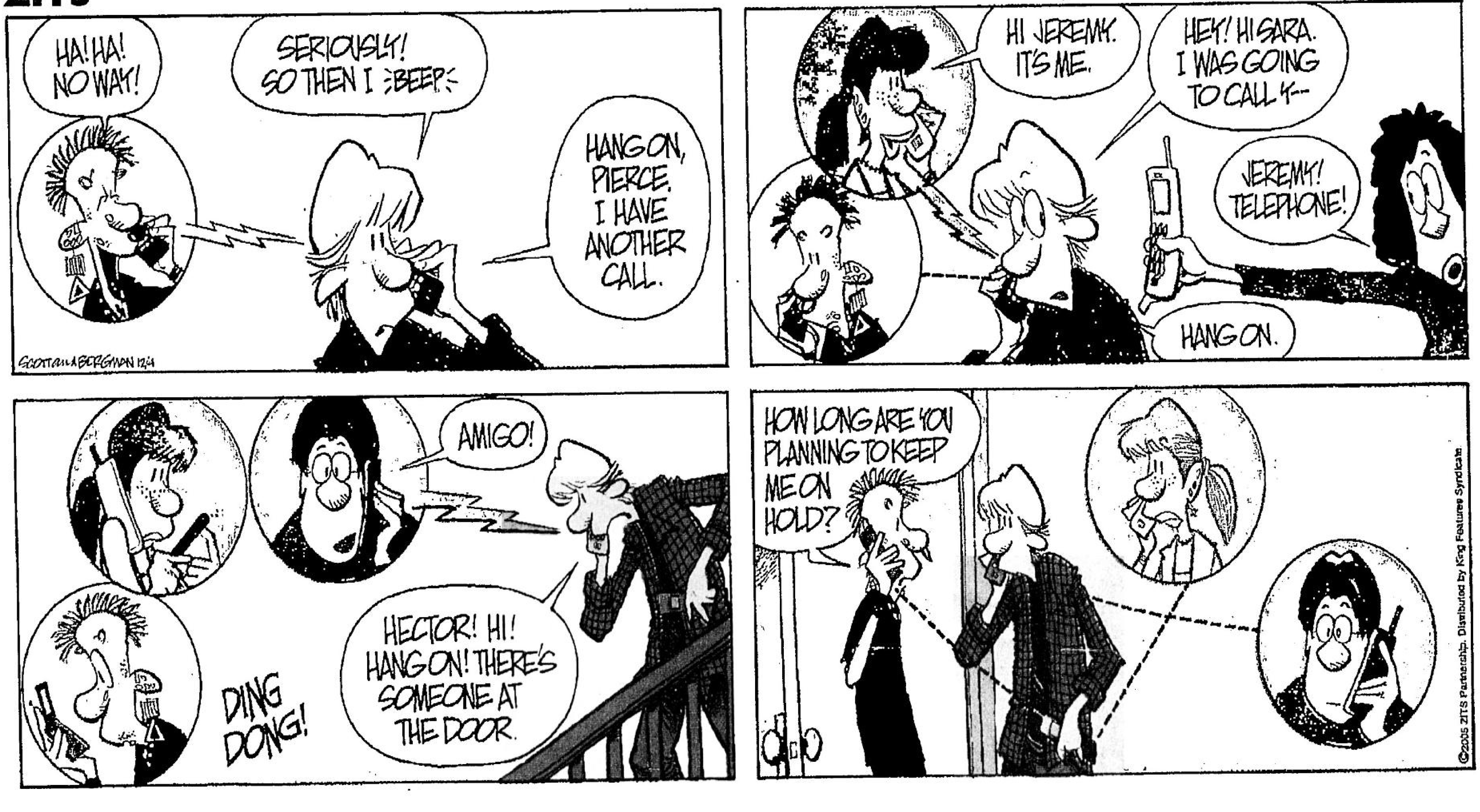
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM?
Z...
HUH? WHAT?
ARE YOU ASLEEP?
NOT ANYMORE.
I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHEN I WAS A KITTEN.
IT'S 4 AM, YOU FREAK!
DID YOU KNOW I HAD AN IMAGINARY FRIEND NAMED FLUFFY?
WE USED TO JUMP AND PLAY AND CHASE BIRDS ALL THE TIME.
DID YOU EVER HAVE AN IMAGINARY FRIEND?
YEAH... YOU'RE MY IMAGINARY FRIEND.
grimmy.com
12/4
MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


HA! HA! NO WAY!
SERIOUSLY! SO THEN I :BEEP:
HANG ON, PIERCE. I HAVE ANOTHER CALL.
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 12/4
HI JEREMY. IT'S ME.
HEY! HI SARA. I WAS GOING TO CALL Y--
JEREMY! TELEPHONE!
HANG ON.
AMIGO!
HECTOR! HI! HANG ON! THERE'S SOMEONE AT THE DOOR.
DING DONG!
HOW LONG ARE YOU PLANNING TO KEEP ME ON HOLD?

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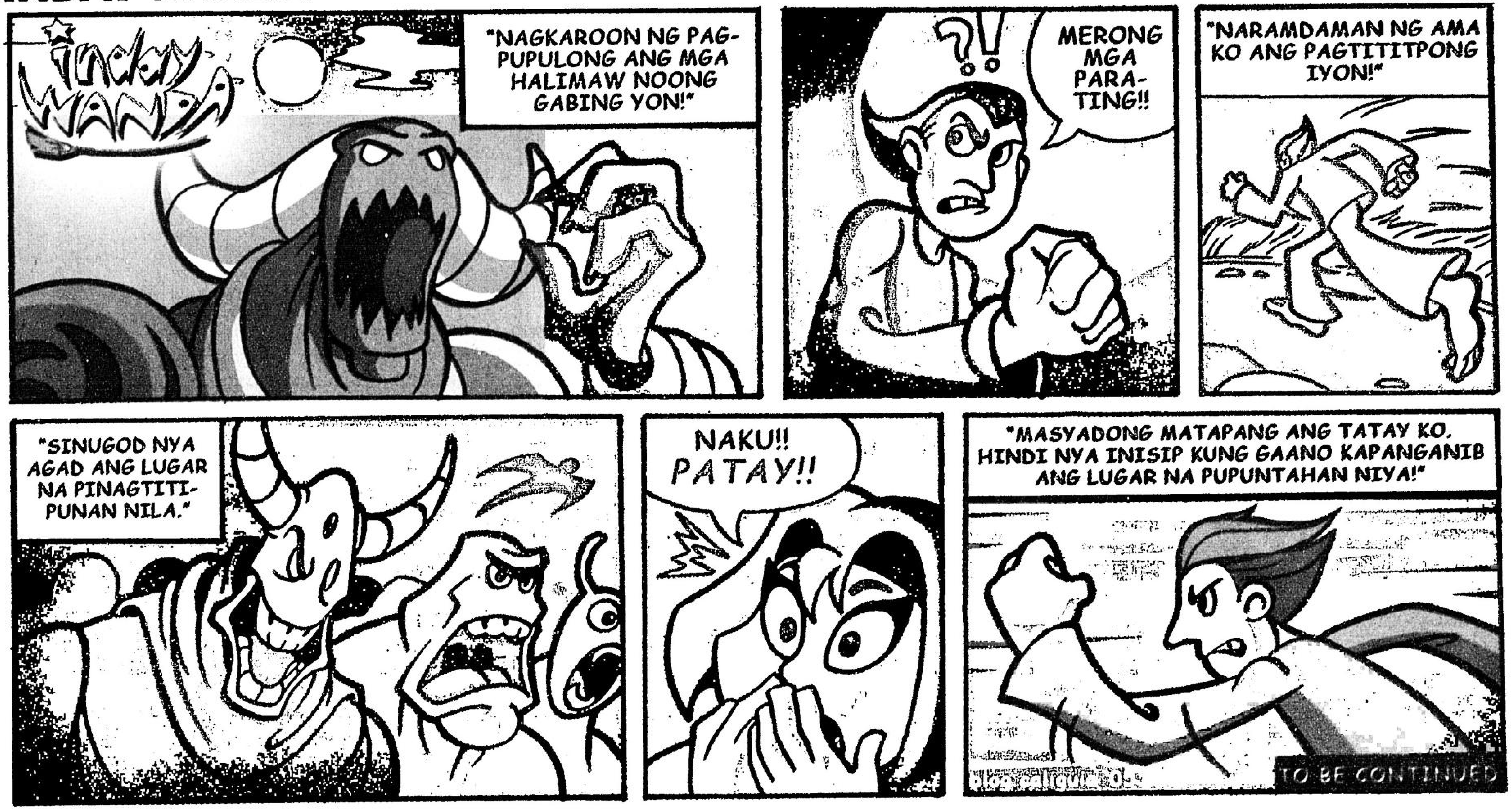
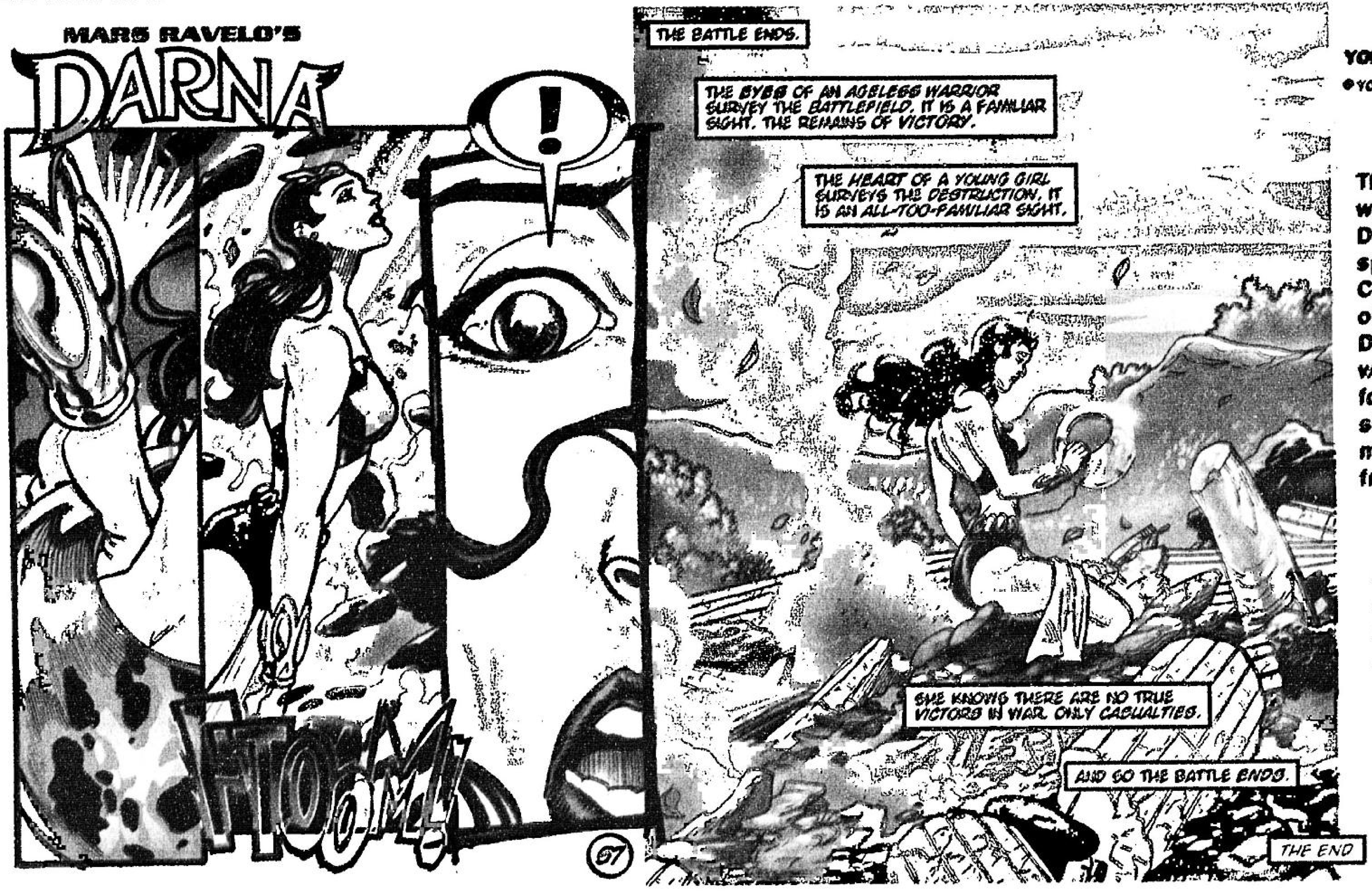
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday WANDA
"NAGKAROON NG PAG-PUPULONG ANG MGA HALIMAW NOONG GABING YON!"
?!
MERONG MGA PARA-TING!!
"NARAMDAMAN NG AMA KO ANG PAGTITITPONG IYON!"
"SINUGOD NYA AGAD ANG LUGAR NA PINAGTITI-PUNAN NILA."
NAKU!! PATAY!!
"MASYADONG MATAPANG ANG TATAY KO. HINDI NYA INISIP KUNG GAANO KAPANGANIB ANG LUGAR NA PUPUNTAHAN NIYA!"
TO BE CONTINUED

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
!
FTOOM!
67
THE BATTLE ENDS.
THE EYES OF AN AGELESS WARRIOR SURVEY THE BATTLEFIELD. IT IS A FAMILIAR SIGHT. THE REMAINS OF VICTORY.
THE HEART OF A YOUNG GIRL SURVEYS THE DESTRUCTION. IT IS AN ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR SIGHT.
SHE KNOWS THERE ARE NO TRUE VICTORS IN WAR. ONLY CASUALTIES.
AND SO THE BATTLE ENDS.
THE END

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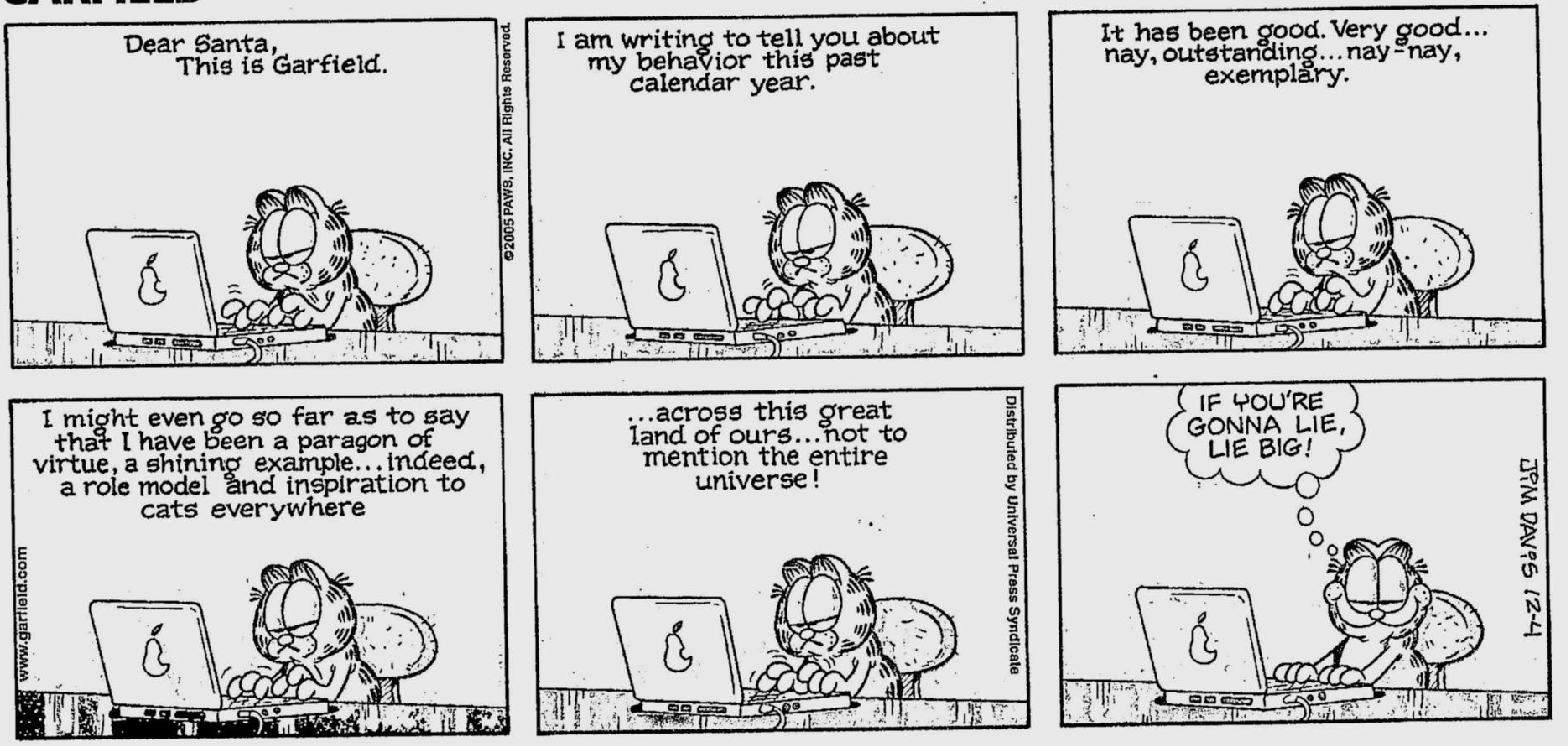
BY JIM DAVIS


Dear Santa,
This is Garfield.
I am writing to tell you about my behavior this past calendar year.
It has been good. Very good... nay, outstanding... nay-nay, exemplary.
I might even go so far as to say that I have been a paragon of virtue, a shining example... indeed, a role model and inspiration to cats everywhere
...across this great land of ours... not to mention the entire universe!
IF YOU'RE GONNA LIE, LIE BIG!
JPM DAVIS 12-4
©2005 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
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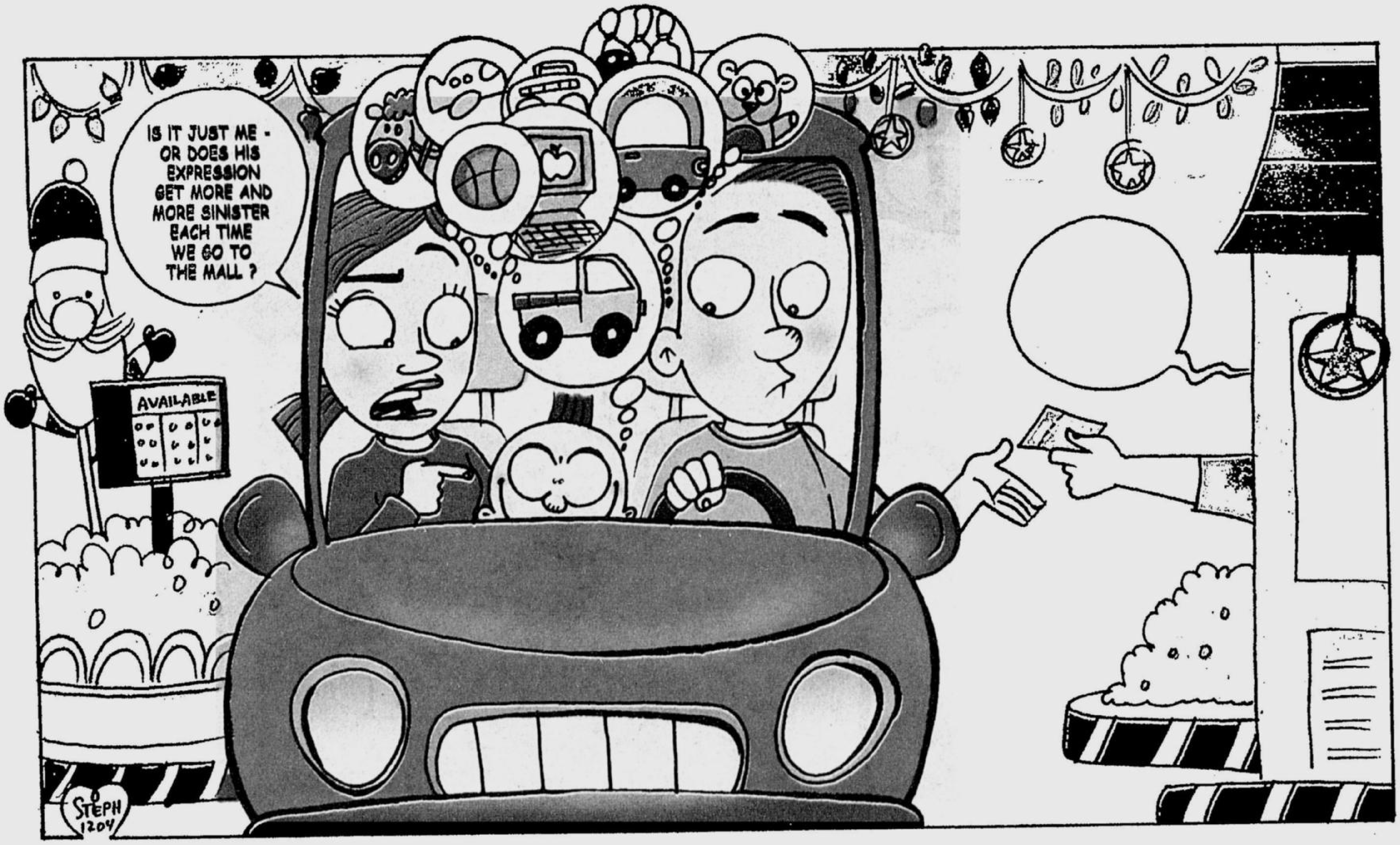
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


IS IT JUST ME - OR DOES HIS EXPRESSION GET MORE AND MORE SINISTER EACH TIME WE GO TO THE MALL ?
AVAILABLE
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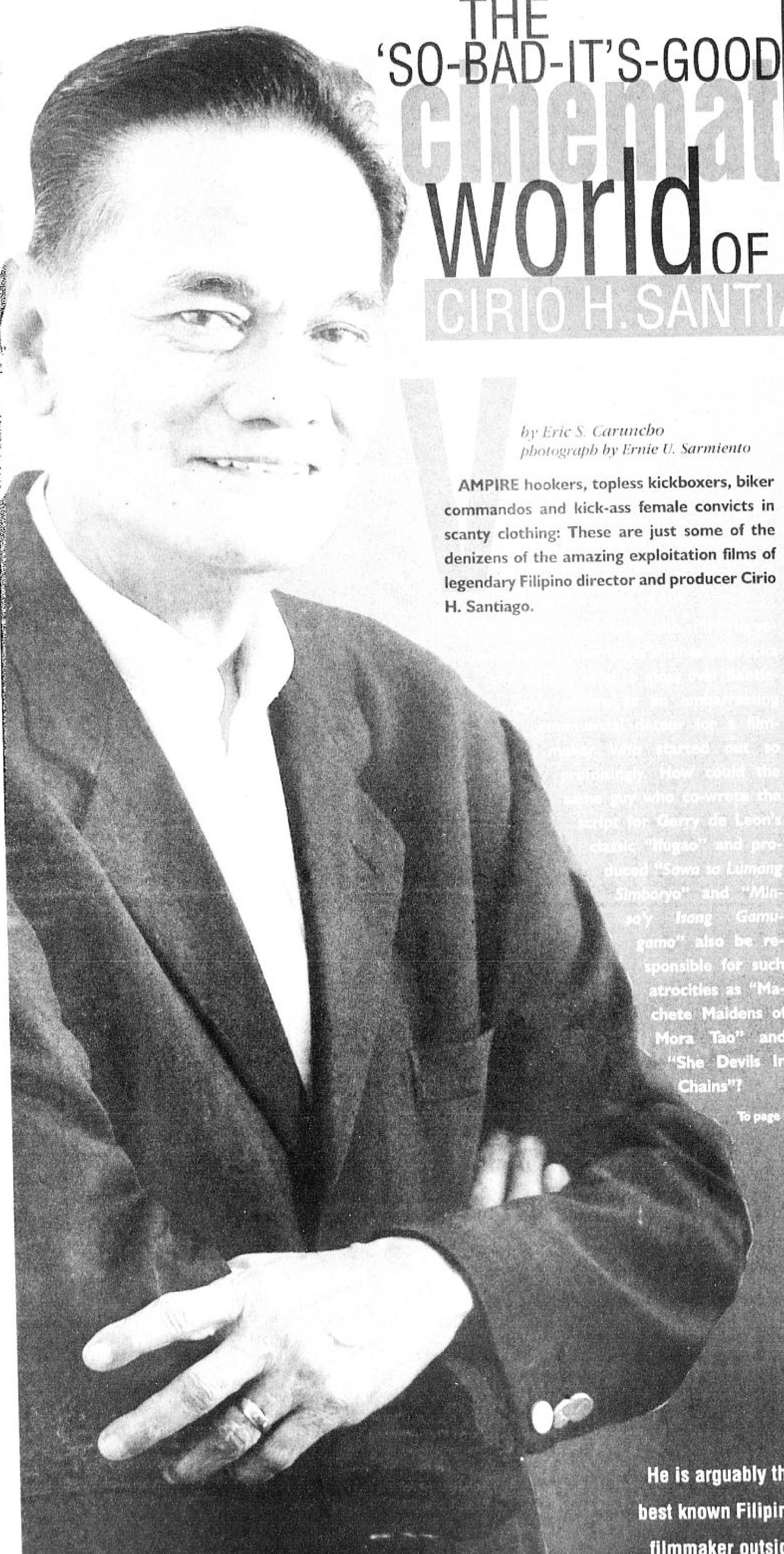
December 4, 2005
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

THE 'SO-BAD-IT'S-GOOD' cinematic world OF CIRIO H. SANTIAGO



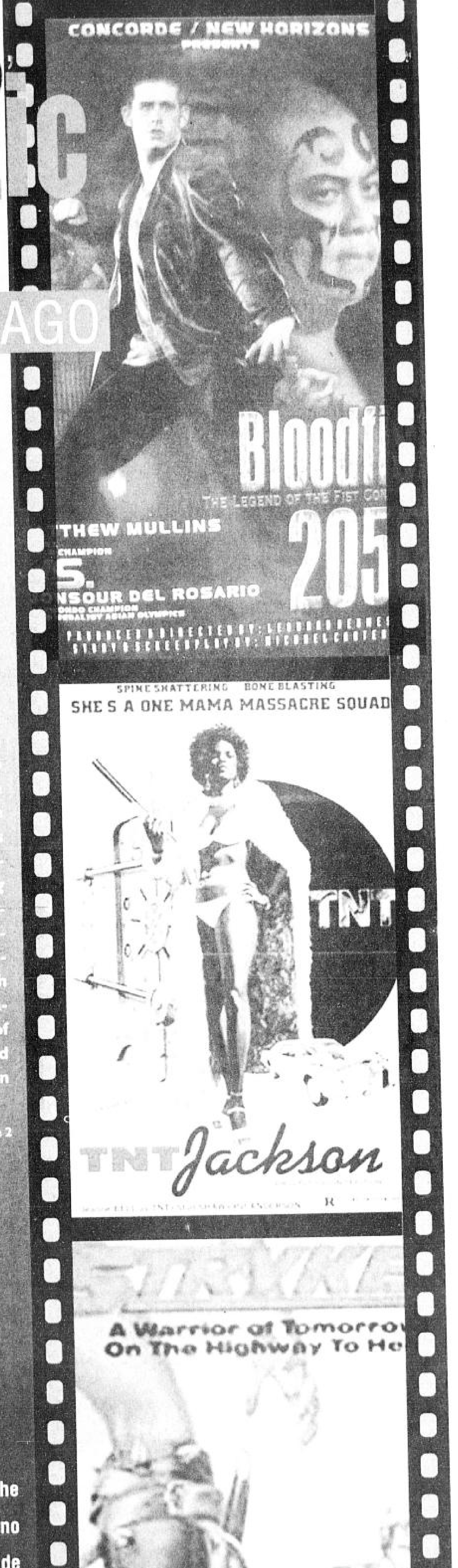
by Eric S. Caruncho
photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

VAMPIRE hookers, topless kickboxers, biker commandos and kick-ass female convicts in scanty clothing: These are just some of the denizens of the amazing exploitation films of legendary Filipino director and producer Cirio H. Santiago.

[illegible] an embarrassing commercial detour for a film-maker who started out so promisingly. How could the same guy who co-wrote the script for Gerry de Leon's classic "Ifugao" and produced "*Sawa sa Lumang Simboryo*" and "*Minsa'y Isang Gamu-gamo*" also be responsible for such atrocities as "Machete Maidens of Mora Tao" and "She Devils In Chains"?

To page 2

He is arguably the best known Filipino filmmaker outside the country, with more than 80 international titles to his name. They're mostly B movies, but hey, Quentin Tarantino is an avid fan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SHE S A ONE MAMA MASSACRE SQUAD
TNT
TNT Jackson
STRYKE
A Warrior of Tomorro
On The Highway To He

Abandoned Boy Finds Patch of Heaven p.3
From Beauty Queen to Lawyer, p.8

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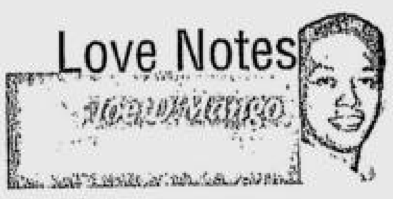

When You Disguise Your Feelings

He can never be mine because he has had a girlfriend for the last three years. I don't think he has plans of breaking up with her; instead, he has plans of ending what we have

Dear Joe,

I'm very confused right now. I've gotten very close to a classmate. He's been my constant companion, especially when my boyfriend broke up with me.

This classmate would sometimes hold my hands, and I'd lean on his shoulder to sleep every time we went out of town. He would brush my hair with his fingers, and sometimes kiss my forehead. I felt good and I didn't want to end it. Maybe I fell in love, but we never talked about it. I don't know why.

Then one night, we kissed and went a little further, acting like we were lovers. But after that, all he said was "Sorry!" He said it was all his fault because he took advantage of me but that he was ready to face the consequences. I, on the other hand, didn't feel any anger towards him. It felt good so I let it be.

Joe, the real problem is, he has had a girlfriend for the last three years and I don't think he has plans of breaking up with her. Instead, he has plans of ending what we have. When he told me that he was going away, I asked him to stay for the sake of our friendship. We decided to become just friends but every time we had the chance to be alone, we would act like lovers. We never kissed again but his actions revealed that he wanted us to be more than just friends.

We've stayed this way, although I've told him that I would try to stay away because it is the right thing to do. I'd rather sacrifice my feelings than to get something that isn't really mine. I would like to save myself from the hurt before it totally drowns me. But how can I stay away when I cannot resist him?

What can I do, Joe? Every day I see him and talk to him. And every time, I put on a smile as if everything is fine so that our other friends won't notice anything.

Aki

Dear Aki,

Sometimes, the hardest thing to accept is knowing that the person we truly love doesn't feel the same way about us. You obviously wanted more from your friend but it seems that he has given you enough and cannot give you anything more.

It may be hard to accept but I don't think he loves you enough to be able to pursue what you started. He loves his girlfriend more and you'd just have to stay at the background. But why would you allow that? He is just taking advantage of your vulnerability and you are consenting to his infidelity.

Aki, maybe he is just as confused as you are but until he speaks out, you'd just have to accept the fact that it is not you but his girl that he chooses to be with.

He obviously likes you but that is very different from love. When we love a person, we should not be afraid to show it even to other people. He doesn't want to hurt his girlfriend, andthat should be more than enough reason to make you understand that he cares more about how she feels than how you do.

Aki, maybe there is a positive side to this. Nobody knows if he's the one for you. If you are meant for each other then everything will fall into place when the right time comes. But while you are waiting for that to happen, spare yourself from the agony of waiting for someone in vain. Accept the fact that you are just friends, plain and simple. Stop wishing for the 'what ifs' so that you don't have to pretend that you are happy when you are crying inside.

Aki, you deserve to be happy, and at this time that happiness is not going to come from your friend but from your own desire to be happy. Tell him how you really feel inside and let his actions speak for themselves. Stop pretending, Aki . Smile because you are truly happy and not because you just want everyone to see that you are. Take one little step forward everyday and soon you will be free from your past and will be able to move on to face a new challenge of love. And maybe this time, you don't have to pretend that you are happy because you really are.

LoveNotes is heard every Friday at 10:15 a.m. with replays at 7 p.m. on WAVE 89.1 FM. Get your daily love advice from Joe d' Mango via SMS by texting "lovenotes" to 2968.

Cirio

...from page 1

On the set with star Marc Dacascos (in camouflage) and crew

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Old-timers fondly remember Santiago's local hits, such as Dolphy's classic "*El Pinoy Matador*" and Nora Aunor's "Lollipops and Roses." But Santiago's place in the history of world cinema will—for better or for worse—likely be sealed by such films as blaxploitation landmark "T.N.T. Jackson" (said to be slated for a Hollywood remake starring Viveca Fox) and the "Mad Max" rip-off "Stryker" (filmed in Paoay with a cast of dwarf extras from Hobbit House).

Arguably, Santiago is the best-known Filipino filmmaker outside the country, having produced over 50 films and directed 30 more for foreign release, nearly all of them low-budget productions for the drive-in theater and straight-to-video market. Many of these are still video rental staples, such as the "Bloodfist" series of kickboxer movies and Vietnam war actioners "Kill Zone," "Eye of the Eagle" and "Final Mission."

The tide of cinematic taste has also turned: Once dismissed as unredeemed trash, some of Santiago's exploitation films are now viewed as cult items in an ironic, post-modern, so-bad-it's-good kind of way.

Big name beginnings

Quentin Tarantino, for one, is a fan, hiring former Santiago staples Pam Grier ("Jackie Brown") and David Carradine ("Kill Bill") and even name-checking him in his own works (in "Pulp Fiction," Uma Thurman's unreleased pilot is called "Foxforce Five," after Santiago's "Foxforce").

Many Hollywood big names also got their start in Santiago's cheapie productions, notably directors Jonathan Demme ("Silence of the Lambs") and Carl Franklin ("Nowhere to Run") and actors Carradine, Grier, part-Ilocano Marc Dacascos ("Crying Freeman," "Brotherhood of the Wolf") and Robert Patrick ("Terminator 2: Judgment Day").

Santiago himself hasn't slowed down. Still slim and energetic, he looks at least 10 years younger than his 69, and still runs Premiere Entertainment Productions, Inc., his production company. He still keeps an agent in Hollywood, and commutes to L.A. regularly to scout for projects. He recently released "Bloodfist 2005" and is eagerly anticipating the Christmas release of "Aladdin and the Adventure of All Time," his first venture into animation.

How did he manage to sustain his passion for making movies over more than 50 years?

"That's what my friends always ask me," says Santiago. "It's creation: you're creating something that people can enjoy. At this point in my life it's not really the money. It's good money, but if I can create something that can entertain people, I'm happy.

"From the beginning, I always watch my movies from the front row, and I look back at the audience," he says.

"There are only two things I watch out for: If they start coughing or smoking—you used to be able to smoke in theaters—you're losing them. The moment they're not glued to that screen, the moment they notice that the curtain is red, I've lost them. And if I lose them, I've failed them."

Santiago was born, appropriately enough, in Divisoria, to a well-to-do family. His father was a surgeon, and his mother a pharmacist. The family owned the successful Hermoso Drugstore. Right after the war, a family friend, cinematographer Ricardo Marcelino, persuaded Santiago's father to get in on the ground floor of the emerging Tagalog film industry, and the family started Premiere Productions in 1946.

Hit after hit

"Our first production, '*Probinsiyana*' with Carmen Rosales and Pempe Padilla, was a fantastic hit, and then we made '*Bakya Mo Neneng*'—hit after hit," recalls Santiago. By 1947, Premiere was making 18 to 20 films a year and was counted as one of the "big four" studios—along with LVN, Sampaguita and Libran. It employed the top directors of the day, among them the legendary Gerardo de Leon.

"I was 16 years old then, and first year college at the Ateneo de Manila where I majored in business and economics, when I got interested in filmmaking," recalls Santiago.

The young Cirio got his feet wet in the emerging film industry as a film editor, putting together the trailers for Premiere's productions.

"*Manong* Gerry (de Leon) told me, 'If you know how to edit, it will be easier for you to direct. You'll know the shots you want, the tempo of the film, etc.,'" Santiago fondly recalls his mentor. "He said, 'I cannot teach you much, the best way to learn is to be with me on the set,' so I made sure I was on the set for all the *Manong* Gerry Films: 'Sisa,' '*Sawa sa Lumang Simboryo*,' '*Kamay Ni* Satanas,' '*Doble Kara*' and the best 'Dyesebel' that's ever been done. Unfortunately, most of these films no longer exist."

Something must have rubbed off, because in the summer of '57, when he was just 17, Santiago directed his first feature, "Paltik."

"Of course my mother gave me all the support," he recalls. "She gave me the best cast: Efren Reyes, Pempe Padilla, Arsenio Francisco. But most of my films didn't make money because people said they were ahead of their time. My favorite film was '*Mga Yapak Na Walang Bakas*,' a suspense thriller. I was very happy because it was nominated and got good reviews, but unfortunately, it ran against (Gerry de Leon's) '*Noli Me Tangere*.' How can you beat the master?"

Nevertheless, by 1960, Santiago was made. At 24, he was the youngest ever to receive the TOYM award. His success is best summed up in a subhead for a 1958 Sunday Times Magazine cover story written by Adrian Cristobal: "Young Man In A Hurry."

The Sunday Times
MAGAZINE

In 1958: "Young man in a hurry"

Second to foreign

But by then, the Big Four were in decline, undercut by emerging independent producers and the increasing popularity of foreign movies.

"We were always second to foreign films because we were limited to two theaters—Life and Dalisay," recalls Santiago. "We didn't have the screens to market our films. I felt the industry had to look for a bigger market, and I began to look to L.A. as a place where I could work and export our films.

"I started looking for a different market because I couldn't compete with the stars. FPJ, Erap and everybody else started making their own pictures, and it became prohibitive to hire them," he continues.

"I decided the way to go was to go for the foreign market. But I also discovered that we couldn't export our local films—it was like trying to export adobo and *dinuguan* (blood stew). Since you're targeting the American audience, you had to sell them 'American' films, meaning films scripted by Americans.

Enter Roger Corman, legendary director of B-movies since the 1940s, among them "The Attack of the Crab Monsters," and the original "Little Shop of Horrors"—exactly the kind of "hamburgers and steak" that American audiences ate up.

"I was very fortunate," recalls Santiago. "I met producer-director Roger Corman in 1960 when he visited Manila because he was endorsed to me by the US Embassy. We became friends, and he said he wanted me to join him when he started his new company, New World Pictures, which became huge in LA until he sold it. It's now Concord-New Horizons."

Flirting with the market

The '60s and '70s were the heyday of exploitation pictures, mostly driven by demand for product for drive-in theaters and urban "grindhouses" (corresponding roughly to our "second-run" theaters) and cranked out on the cheap by independent producers. These were low-budget genre movies: sci-fi, horror, spaghetti westerns, action, soft-core sex, atrocity films appealing to the baser instincts of lower common denominator audiences.

Filipino directors had flirted with this market before. Eddie Romero ("Beast of the Yellow Night") and even Gerry de Leon ("Terror Is A Man") had tried their hand at Grade B horror in the early '60s, but they had done so gingerly, as if forced to stoop to such depths by economic necessity.

Not so Cirio. Once he had set his mind to it, he plunged into the genre blender at full steam.

"Corman gave me my first break," he recalls. "He paid me $3,000 to produce and direct my first film for him, 'Savage', a.k.a. 'Soldier Black'."

Santiago and Corman next turned to the emerging "women in prison" genre, churning out the classic "Big Bird Cage," starring now-iconic Pam Grier and co-starring Vic Diaz and Subas Herrero as a pair of gay prison guards. (Little-known factoid: Pam Grier has Filipino blood—one of her grandmothers is Pinay, according to Santiago).

"Those films made money, and that's how Premiere Entertainment got started," says Santiago.

As he did with Gerry de Leon, Santiago soaked up whatever he could learn from Roger Corman, who is 10 years his senior.

"Roger used to tell me, 'There are three ways to make a movie: the right way, the wrong way, and the Corman way'," recalls Santiago.

"The big secret of Corman and myself is economics. We were doing films for $300,000 which was unheard of in LA. When they saw the finished product, they couldn't believe we only spent $300,000. That's why we're still here. But it's hard work. You have to finish a shoot in four weeks. Roger used to tell me, 'After four weeks there's no more money, so shoot the beginning and the end first, and if you can't finish the middle, editing should still save us'. And it works, up to now, although the budget is now closer to a million, because everything has gone up."

As the name suggests, exploitation films succeed by copying other successful films, short of a lawsuit. When Sylvester Stallone's "Rambo" started a trend for Vietnam War films, Santiago made "Field of Fire," "Final Mission," "Kill Zone" and dozens of others.

"Tarantino got David Carradine

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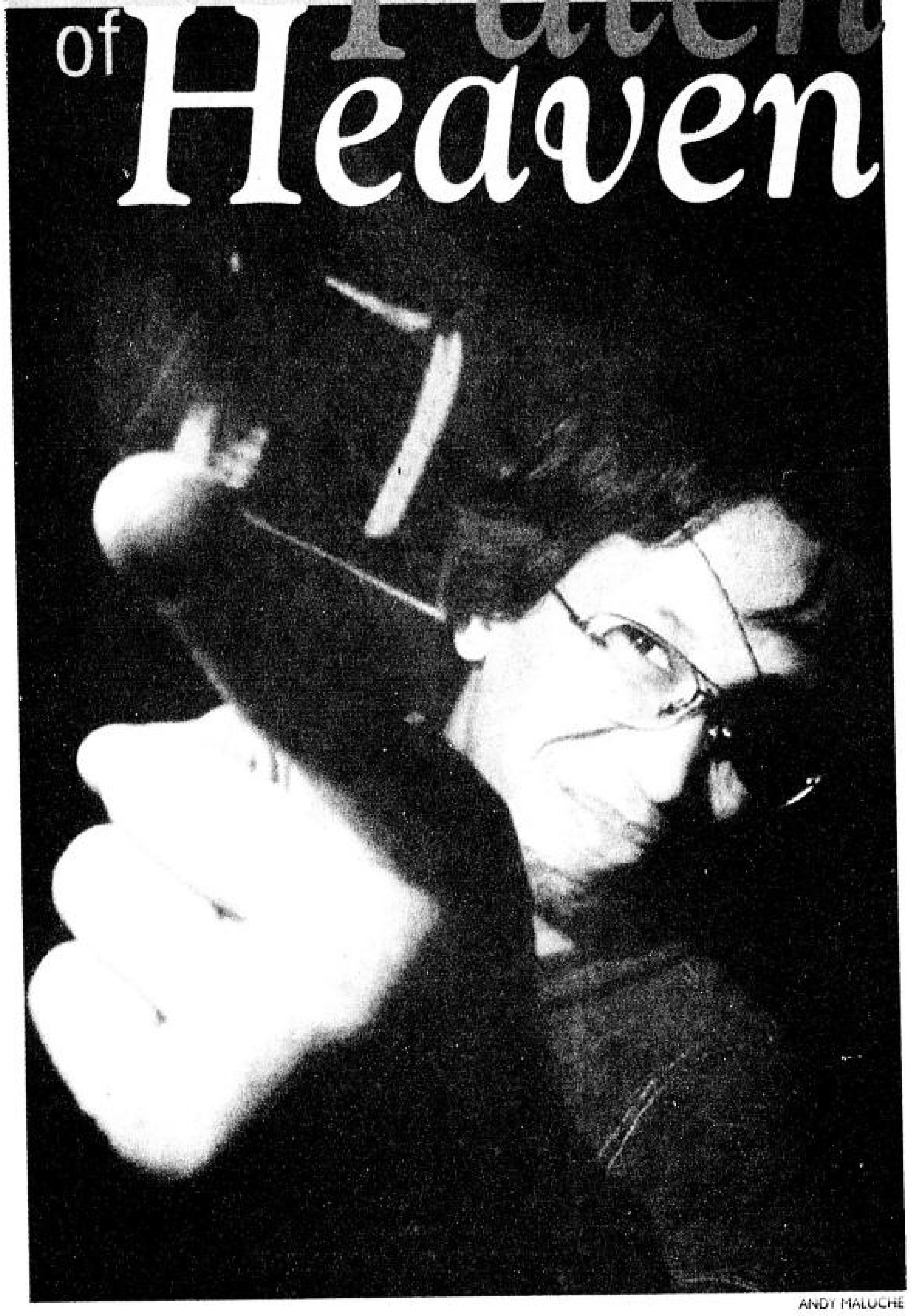
Twists of Fate

by Vanni de Sequera

Once Abandoned Boy Finally Finds His Patch of Heaven



ANDY MALUCHE

IT was heartrending. The report by a medical social worker, dated October 16, 1970, describes the case of a James Doe, exact age unknown, who was brought to Makati Medical Center two weeks earlier by a policeman. Found by children playing by the railroad tracks of the South Super Highway, the baby was naked and had multiple abrasions all over his body. Worms swarmed over him and a laceration around his neck seemed to indicate an attempt to kill him. His umbilical cord was still attached. He also needed a corneal transplant because his left eye had been badly infected. Nurse Celia and Nurse Remie took turns caring for the baby who was given his own doctor's coat with his new name Jimmy.

Today, Jimmy still gets a lot of attention, but for entirely different reasons. Now known as "DJ Patch" (for the eye patch he wears over his left eye), Jimmy Gustilo is a sought-after disc jockey in some of the most popular bars and music joints in the country. He has gigs at the Verve Room in Malate, at the Flute, and Absinthe. He has also played in Bacolod and in the legendary Hey Jude parties in Boracay. On top of his day job as Art Director at Lowe, Inc., Jimmy now arranges music for famous acts.

Surprise present

From the wretched foundling who stayed at the Makati Medical Center for three years while he was mending, Jimmy Gustilo has made good—thanks to his adoptive parents and his natural spunk. Although he was too weak to notice, the boy had a steady stream of visitors, among them a dignified middle-aged man who wore a white coat. The man, Dr. Romeo Gustilo, a board member of the Makati Med, was a brain surgeon who had five beautiful daughters, but no son.

When Jimmy was three, Dr. Gustilo fetched him from the hospital. Dressed in a Santa suit and hidden in a gift box, Jimmy became the Gustilo family's surprise Christmas present that year, more than three decades ago. The good doctor's wife and daughters squealed with delight, generously passing him around at first before trying to wrest the boy from one another, each demanding the exclusive right to pinch and cuddle the living bundle of joy.

Recalls Jimmy: "They gave me lots of gifts. I got so overwhelmed. I was supposed to go back to the hospital that night, but I fell asleep and woke up late." Thus began his new life.

Jimmy's sisters were much older than him, so he would hang out with his new parents, watching Dr. Gustilo's favorite show "The Six Million Dollar Man." Because the bionic man had an artificial eye, the kindhearted couple told their one-eyed son that he was just like Col. Steve Austin. The boy loved hearing that.

Natural energy

The boy—whose sisters told him he was adopted when he was 11—grew up to be a hyperactive young man. "Basketball was my main course for lunch," he says. The already reed-thin Jimmy lost even more weight—he simply didn't need food to fuel him, stockpiled as he was with natural energy. When he wasn't doodling or bouncing his basketball, he was, quite literally, bouncing off the walls. His grades dipped, and he failed eight of 10 subjects that year. Jimmy was promptly grounded, but the punishment proved to be his watershed.

"No basketball, no TV, no phone," he recalls. "That's when I discovered radio. I'd listen to 99.5 RT then Kiss FM, where I'd hear soon-to-be chartbusters. On weekends, I'd hear the same songs being mixed live on a radio feed from Rumors Disco. It was pure heaven for me. *Galeng!*"

> **As a baby, he was left to die by the railroad tracks. Today, thanks to his adoptive parents and an ear for music, Jimmy Gustilo has built a name and reputation as DJ Patch, a sought-after disc jockey with a sound all his own**

Then he heard Andrew del Rosario, a.k.a. DJ Droid, for the first time. The DJ spun for Stargazer during weekdays and for Goldmine during weekends. "I loved his music!" Jimmy gushes. "I was in early high school, and it was '80s disco! Patrice Rushen, Evelyn 'Champagne' King! I danced all night with Mary, who was from Immaculate Conception Academy!"

When his grades approached respectability, Jimmy was allowed to go out on weekends. He assiduously soaked up the tricks of the DJ trade, using expensive but brittle Audio Technica needles and mastering the idiosyncrasies of the turntable. He bought his first record in 1986, Swing Out Sister's "Breakout" and started building up a record collection of epic proportions.

Two years later, a new sound engulfed him. House and Acid House. "I noticed they had the same groove as my old disco records, but had a more steady and modern electronic feel to it." He was destined to encounter house music again on a deeper level, but not before losing the eye that replaced the one he had previously lost.

"I'm the kind of person who gets obsessed with a new project or hobby," admits Jimmy. "That's what happened to me in the office in 1996 and in my newfound sport, tennis. I would wake up early to be at work by 7 in the morning so I could go home by three. Then on weekends, I'd burn tracks on the tennis court baselines perfecting my game. If I couldn't get the ball over the net, I'd slam my racket on the ground in frustration. I broke two rackets."

Lost eye

The irrational exertion weakened first his resistance, then the area around what was once his left eye. Jimmy was rushed to Makati Medical and confined for two weeks because of extreme fatigue. The nurse removed the artificial eye and placed it on the night table after folding some tissue paper around it. Unfortunately, a hospital staff accidentally threw the eye away. Not knowing where he could get an eye patch, he paid his optician a visit, but the doctor was himself stumped. On his way out of the clinic, a dejected Jimmy met a complete stranger who handed him his own eye patch. Apparently, the man had just recovered from a "lazy eye" and decided that Jimmy needed the patch more than he did. "I was so happy... I was gonna look like a pirate!" Nowadays, one of Jimmy's sisters sends him eye patches from abroad—one for normal days, and a bulkier set for sports, all of them in black.

His disc jockeying days started with a CD, a 1996 Ministry of Sound double CD mixed by Pete Tong and Boy George. "It was a mix of old-school funkyhouse with dabs of disco," recalls Jimmy. "Then my friend Dexter told me I could maybe do this mixing thing. So I got all the gear and thought I'd start mixing after work." But disaster struck: He forgot the hundred CDs or so that he had packed inside a Case Logic in the trunk of a cab. The following day, BPI sent his new credit card, which he promptly maxed out, buying replacement CDs.

At a client's party in Bistro 110, bar owner Christine San Diego liked what she heard and invited him to spin regularly. "A great woman!" he calls her. Jimmy would hang out in the notorious ABG's to further soak up the house music scene. It was Erich Edralin who christened him DJ Patch. Manolet Santos taught Jimmy technical mixing and crowd-reading skills. "I was truly blessed with great DJ's who knew the craft and influenced my taste in music," he says.

But the biggest blessing he's got, says Jimmy, was being part of a loving family—the Gustilos—who saw him literally as a diamond in the rough and gave him enough opportunities to shine. "To all those who have been part of my life from Day One," he proclaims, "thank you for everything!"

Dr. Romeo Gustilo with wife Nena, adopted son Jimmy (nowadays a.k.a. DJ Patch), and daughter Marlies; at right, the Boy Wonder at work

GUYITO POWER

GUYITO, the official mascot of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, takes centerstage as the newspaper marks its 20th anniversary in December. Festivities will be highlighted by the unveiling of 20 Guyito carabao sculptures based on the character created by chief cartoonist Jess Abrera, and translated into the three-dimensional version by sculptor Juan Sajid Imao.

The Inquirer has invited 20 of the country's veteran and emerging artists to paint the fiberglass sculptures based on the anniversary theme, "The Power of Knowing." They are: Malang, Bencab, Kidlat Tahimik, Fernando Sena, Salvador Convocar, Soler, Steve Santos, Caña, Lydia Velasco, Ernesto Patricio, Bing Siochi, Roel Obemio, Tres Roman, Wilfredo Offemaria, Bin Samonte, Jef Samonte, Romeo Forbes, Rex T atlonghari, Anton Balao and Jack Salud.

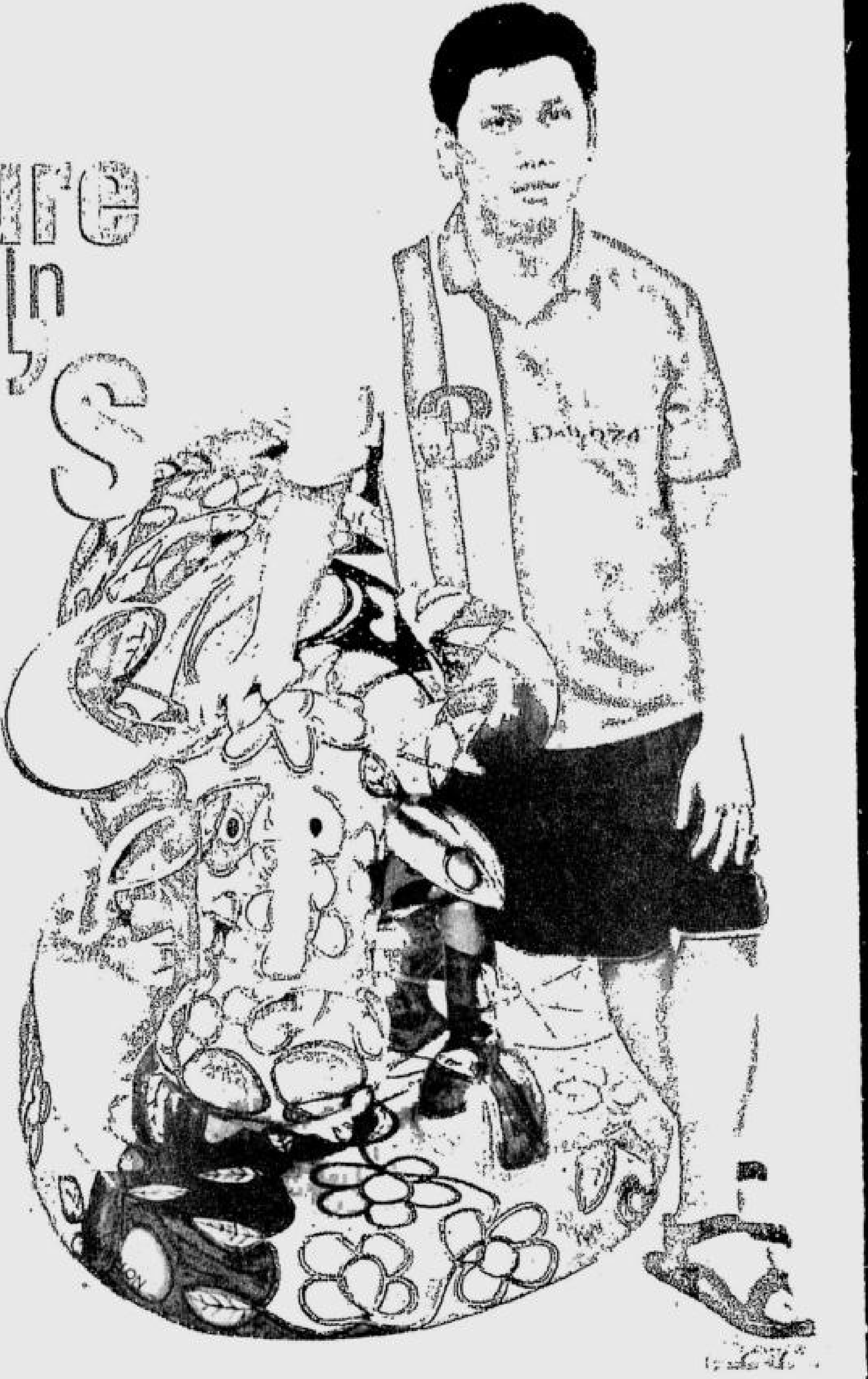
The carabao sculptures will be donated to 20 selected cities/municipalities nationwide, to be chosen based on their high schools' rankings in the Regional Finals of the Quiz Bee Competition. Miniature versions of the Guyito sculptures will be given to the top 20 companies that have supported the Inquirer in the past two decades.

From January to May 2006, Inquirer representatives will visit the 20 selected schools/cities to turn over the sculptures. In addition, an Inquirer Campus Journalism Workshop will be held in each school. The one-day lecture/workshop will feature Inquirer reporters, editors and columnists who will discuss specific journalism topics and share their expertise on effective writing, editing and layouting. The number of student participants will be determined by the school's available venue. Delegates will be given a handbook on journalism styles, methods, ethics and best practices.

Inquirer president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said the complement of anniversary activities underscores the need for knowledge. In marking its 20th year, Inquirer particularly hopes to motivate students to become achievers. "Through these projects, we hope to inspire the young to value reading and use it as a tool to attaining their dreams."

Sunday Inquirer Magazine profiles the artists who have made the Guyito undertaking possible.

Tres Roman A Creature Made Whole In Nature's Embrace



by Alya B. Honasan

This nurse's heart belongs to art, and he celebrates bucolic childhood memories in his vibrant version of Guyito

ARTIST Tres Roman has more than a theoretical knowledge of the carabao. As a child, this youngest in a brood of seven girls and two boys, would go home to their farm in Quezon, inaccessible except by carabao ride over rocky roads. "We would run straight for the *aratilis* tree in our back yard, and spend the whole afternoon up there, daydreaming."

Such idyllic childhood memories inevitably found their way into Roman's colorful rendition of Guyito, a four-legged explosion of vivid colors from nature that looks like a cross between a brilliant stained glass window and a festive Mexican *piñata.*

With tree trunks for legs and children's bicycles parked at their base, this Guyito celebrates a different kind of wisdom—not so much conventional book learning, but the kind of knowledge you develop growing up in nature's embrace. "That molds what you are," Roman says. "That makes you whole."

The gregarious Roman knows a thing or two about striving to find his own place. The son of a regional trial court judge, he was born Manuel Marlon T. Roman III (thus, the numeric nickname), and was supposed to become a lawyer based on his father's wishes. "But it really wouldn't stick," he says of law school, laughing, recounting how he jumped from the University of Santo Tomas to Letran, finishing instead a pre-med psychology course along the way. Still, this unschooled artist, who first picked up crayons for coloring books as a boy, gravitated to artist friends, drawing for his school organizations. He also always ended up in the mountaineering club, a confirmation of his affinity with nature.

Field of joy

Roman eventually finished school and married Carmen, a practising lawyer, eight years ago. The couple has a son, 7-year-old Hugo. Meanwhile, Roman found himself in nursing school at Fatima College; at the time of this interview, he was reviewing for the board exams and preparing for a career in a field he has actually learned to enjoy.

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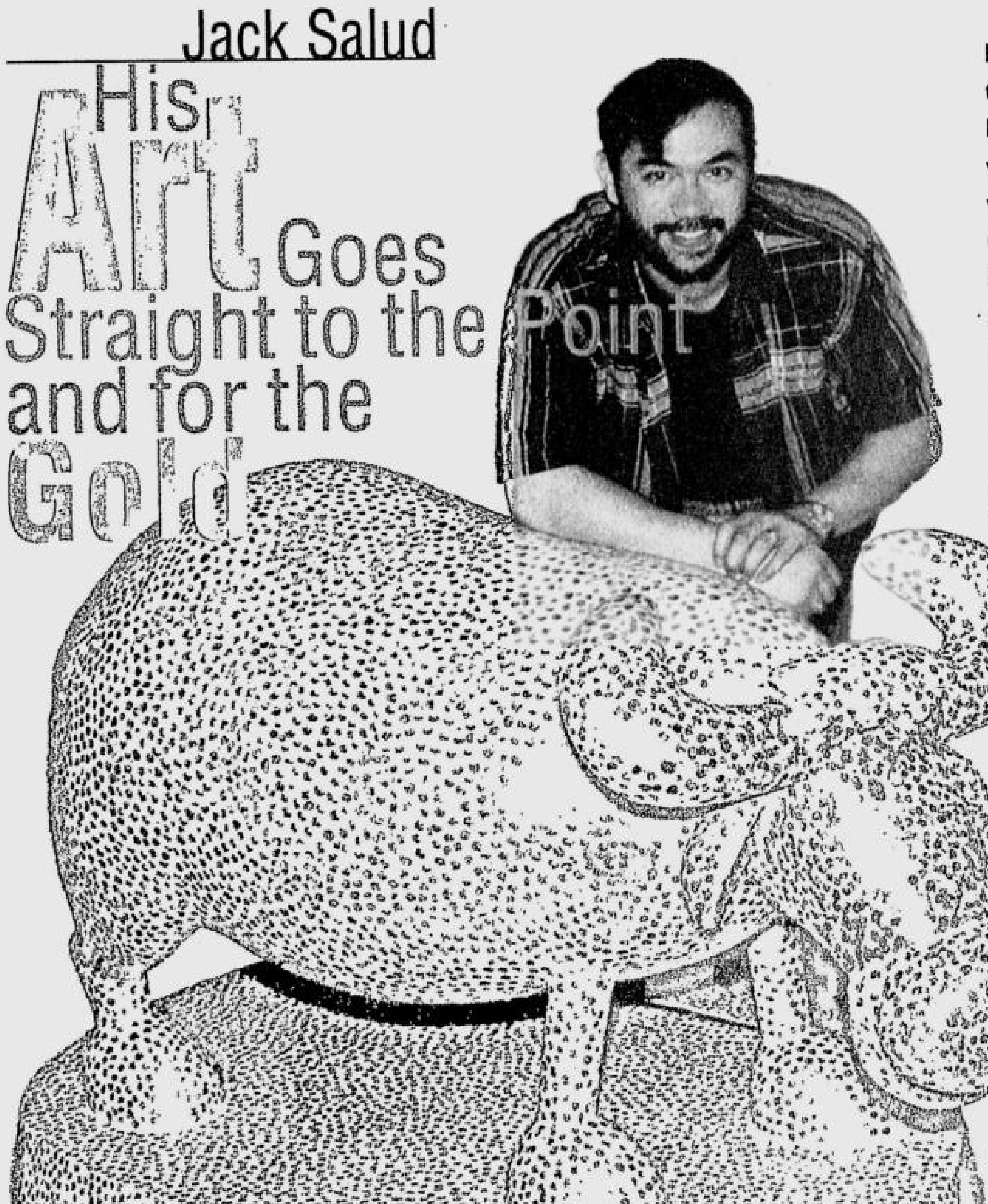
Jack Salud His Art Goes Straight to the Point and for the Gold



BETOY JOHNSON

by Elvira Mata

Dots mark the spot as this self-taught artist captures devotion to the truth in the shape of everyone's favorite carabao

ACK Salud was the last artist to get his Guyito, and he had to work on him twice. "The carabao sculpture was delivered to the house on September 5, with a letter saying a photographer would come in 10 days to take a shot of Guyito as a work in progress. Given very little time to work, I panicked," Salud said, explaining why he started one version of Guyito, dismantled it, and then came up with a completely different vision for the INQUIRER mascot.

Salud, 41, is a pointillist painter. With the tiniest brush, he meticulously dabs a million delicate dots of paint on a canvas. After years of practice, he can control the brush's contact with the canvas to produce dots of equal size and equal space from each other.

Painstaking work

Every square inch of Salud's artwork contains 1,060 dots, equivalent to five graded layers of minute dots moving from light to dark hues. There are 1,628,160 dots for every 4 ft. x 2.5 ft. canvas and it takes him a month-and-a-half of painstaking work to finish one minimum-size artwork.

"What could I possibly show the photographer in 10 days?" he said, recalling his first few days of bonding with Guyito. "I decided to wrap him in yarn."

Salud applied glue and wrapped yarn around Guyito's head. When he was finished, the carabao sculpture had red horns, an orange face, green hair and pink hoofs. He threw a black and orange blanket over his body and Guyito was ready for his close up.

The INQUIRER mascot looked really festive. But Salud, the artist, was not. He had other plans for Guyito. "After meditating on the theme, 'The Power of Knowing,' I thought—knowledge is gold. In fact, it is more precious than gold. According to the Book of Proverbs, 'Wisdom is worth more than silver; it brings more profit than gold.'"

Salud decided to paint Guyito gold, "to represent the informed Filipino."

"The body and face will be one shade of gold; the legs would be a darker shade, but it would still be gold," he said. Salud would then apply his trademark dots on Guyito's horns—the focal point of his art piece. "I will paint the horns black and then add gold dots. From afar, the horns would look textured and striking. I chose the horns as my focal point because they are the carabao's only means of self-defense. In a repressive regime, like martial law, the only way the Filipino can defend himself is by exposing the truth." he said.

Renaissance man

Let's not confuse pointillism with politics. Truth be told, Salud is a sort of Renaissance man. Aside from painting, his other predilections include singing (he loves opera), acting (he has a small role in Repertory Philippines' 'Man of La Mancha'), and poetry (three years ago, he had an exhibit of his eight poems and eight paintings titled, "My Soul Whispers Poetic Dotted Images").

His recent show titled, "Dotted Arias IV," at the Gallery 139, Glorietta 4, featured "scenes of serenity and bliss—a balm for these times of turmoil." The images were of energetic yet restful shapes

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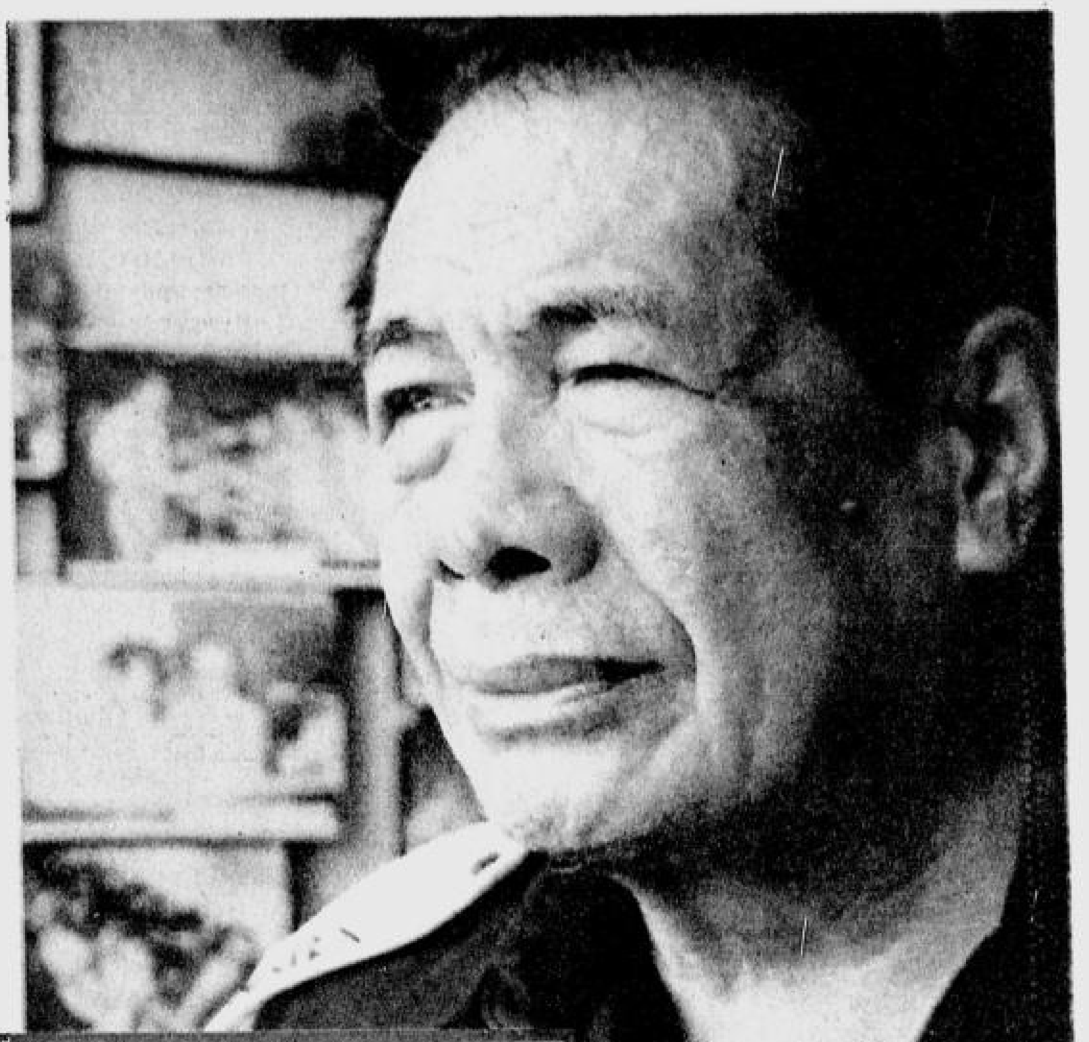
Controversies

text and photographs
by Tara Katherine Yap

The Court Set Him *Free*, But Antiqueños *Believe* the Day of Reckoning is Still to Come

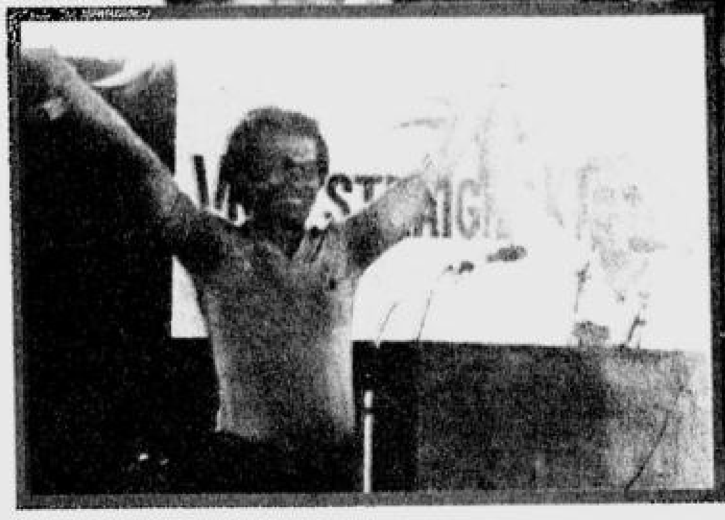


A LITTLE more than a year ago, Arturo "Turing" Fullon Pacificador felt fear running through his veins as he sat in the jampacked courtroom. The past 18 years have dramatically changed the former Marcos ally. From being one of the most powerful men in the Visayas, he became a fugitive and a prisoner. Now here he was, waiting for the court to decide his fate. Along with three co-accused, he faced three charges in the February 1986 murder of his political rival, former Gov. Evelio Javier. Aside from Ninoy Aquino's assassination, analysts have considered the bloody killing of Javier as the turning point that ignited People Power I and ousted President Marcos.

As the decision was read, Pacificador clenched his fists. Tucked inside his left hand was a plastic image of the Child Jesus. "When I opened it, I discovered that both the hands of the Sto. Niño were broken," recounts the 74-year-old former Assemblyman from Antique and a staunch Marcos supporter on the day he was set free on October 12, 2004. "That's the reason I ran straight to the church. I had to thank the Lord," he adds.

A year has passed and now the tides have changed. The acquitted Pacificador now savors his newfound connection with his children, especially those he had outside of his marriage with Teodora. Age has not stopped him from practicing law, although much of his work has been pro bono. He also teaches criminal law at a nearby college and has his own radio program every Wednesday. He was recently elected chapter president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines in Antique.

He has moved on, says former Marcos ally and Antique Assemblyman Arturo Pacificador more than a year after his acquittal in the murder of his political rival, Gov. Evelio Javier. But even he admits that his past will continue to hound him



Ex-allies: Javier (right) raises Pacificador's hand and proclaims him official KBL candidate in the 1978 election

Marcos' lapdog

But political conquest eluded Pacificador when he lost the congressional, gubernatorial and vice-gubernatorial race while still in detention. He is undaunted, however. "If the people of Antique need me, then I will run," he reveals.

That may take some time, however. Pacificador himself admits that "even now, people refer to me as *tuta ni* Marcos (lapdog)." But he remains in a fighting mood. "Let history judge me," he says.

While some say that history may have spoken through the courts, most Antiquenos believe that the day of reckoning has yet to come. Howev[illegible] Rudy Castrojas, the fourth judge t[illegible]side in probably the country's longest judicial case, there just wasn't enough evidence presented by the prosecution to convict Pacificador. But sev[illegible] the former Marcos man's co-def[illegible] were found guilty, including Atty.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Sunday, December [illegible]

club tv
Saturday 8pm
Laura Jea
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Pinoy Big Brother Buzz		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Search For A Star In A Million	Rated K		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sunday Family Cinema			
AXN														CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 4)		CSI: NY (Season I)			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	The Road Runner Show	The Powerpuff Girls	Winx Club	The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Samurai Jack	Teen Titans	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Justice League	Harvey Birdman (11:15PM)	Mission Hill
Cinemax	Hurricane Smith			Ghosts Of Mississippi				For Love Or Money			Timecop: The Berlin Decision			Premonition			Philadelphia		
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	Man Sail	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	CNN Business Traveller	Talk Asia	Next@CNN
Discovery Channel				American Chopper						Hour Asia		Cathay Pacific Signature Series						Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie McGuire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
ETC	Will & Grace	Saturday Night Live		Veronica Mars		American Dreams		One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Average Joe		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Meet My Folks		ET Weekend	
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavio Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love			S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul			Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	Hamlet				Hamlet				Bum				Midsomer Murders: Dark Autumn			Frankenstein (10:35PM)		
HBO				Big Fish				Tommy Boy (6:15PM)				As Good As It Gets				The Rundown (10:15PM)			
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop	Mr. Taxman	Sea Games		Home Shopping Network				Sea Games Special				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV		Reno 911	Blue Collar TV	X-Play	Sweat	Street Smart	The Sib Show	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				South Park	The Man Show	Insomniac With Dave Attell	Beat The Geeks
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario			E! Entertainment Special						Clean House	
MTV Philippines	Mosh		Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	Wade Robson Project	Viva La Bam	Pimp My Ride	Get Hitched	MTV Screen	The 70's House	Spring Break	MTV Presents				Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		No Borders			Bones: Beyond The Grave	Amazing Moments		Evolution				Megastructures		Best Of The Week		No Borders			
NBN														Sea Games					
Nickelodeon	Ned's Classified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	1, 2, 3	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Classified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			AB Normal		Papunta Ka Pa Lang, Pabalik Na Ako				Ang Misa Kong Hoodlum				OA Sa Puso				Gloria Labandera		
Qtv		Baywalk		Joan Of Arcadia		Ginang Fashionista		Ang Pinaka..		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				The Chief Justice: Davide Story	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		JAG		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN				Sure Hits	The Working President
SBN 21		New Life TV Shopping		Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon		SBN Sing Along	
Solar Sports		2005 IBF Hongkong Badminton Finals						GWS	NBA Jam	NBA Game 76ers @ Spurs					NO RESPECT Bernard Hopkins vs. Jermain Taylor				
Sports Plus				The Tour Championship Highlights		Slipstream		World Poker Tour ep 2 Los Angeles				Raceworld		URCC Part 2		Chrysler Championship Day 3			
Star Movies				Challenge: The Last Disciple			The Distinguished Gentleman				Blue Streak (7:25PM)			The Whole Ten Yards			Nine Months (10:45PM)		
Star World						Business Week Asia	Travel Asia/Miss World Southern Europe Vote For Me	One Tree Hill/Monk/Smallville (Series 2)	Miss World Asia Pacific Vote For Me	The Simpsons	Kumars At 42/The Making Of Holiday On Ice/Holiday On Ice Behind The Scene	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson/Koffee With Karan		The Robinsons	Human Remains	The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23								Nginig		Y Speak		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	Dental Tour (10:15PM)	Chefs On The Go (10:45PM)		

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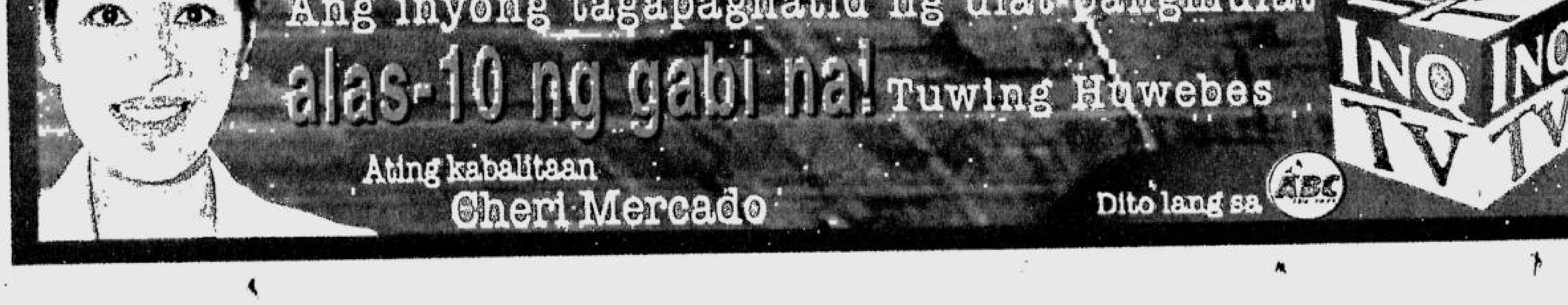


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV

People of the Faith

by Joy Rojas

Happiness Is There Where YOU Are

ROGER CARPIO

Cenacle nun and Zen Master Sr. Sonia Punzalan teaches meditation to harried folks who take to the quiet like fish to water

IN A world where practically everything from angry street marchers to oversized highway billboards scream for attention, silence certainly proves a welcome treat for any weary soul. Such explains the diverse group of people that converge for Zen meditation every Monday night at the ELJ Communications Center in Quezon City.

"I would think that mid-lifers would take to it, but I am surprised," says Sr. Sonia Punzalan approvingly of the gathering that includes ABS-CBN employees, professionals from different fields, and students. "By and large, many appreciate the quiet every now and then."

Still, it isn't just the serenity that one experiences from breathing from the belly (or specifically, two inches below the navel) and allowing random thoughts to enter the mind and exit with every exhalation that keeps practitioners coming back for more. A certified Associate Zen Roshi, Sr. Sonia meets each and every member of the group ("to check on their practice") and holds a 20-minute talk, "mostly about the value of silence and coming into this non-judgmental and non-dualistic attitude."

Need for healing

And, she adds, "The need for healing, not just of our individual selves but of our society. We shouldn't just depend on someone out there to heal us. By coming into our own selves, we can reach the spot within us that is 'self-generating.' I guess that's what we Catholics would call the Master within us, the God within us."

A high school teacher at the Our Lady of Loreto College in Legarda until she joined the Cenacle sisters in 1965, Sr. Sonia was working in a community in Cavite when she realized "that what I got from my classes in Theology were somewhat distant from the needs of the people," she says in the gentlest of whispers. "Like, why are we suffering this way? And do people who don't belong to a church have a chance to be saved? Of course, we have neat answers. But there was still this yearning in me for answers that would unify rather than divide."

Things fell into place, however, when she met Sr. Elaine McInnes, a Canadian Zen teacher who studied at the Sanbo-Kyodan School in Kamakura, Japan, and later, Fr. Shigeto Oshida, a Dominican priest and Zen hermit who inadvertently contributed to a defining moment in her life.

"The minute he raised a flower before a large crowd, twirled it and said, 'This is your whole universe,' I knew there was something to this," says Sr. Sonia who endured the long trip from Indang, Cavite, to St. Bridget's College in Katipunan, Quezon City every Sunday morning just to join a group in Zen meditation. "Beliefs divide, and religions sometimes divide us. But there must be something that would connect us. Maybe this was what I was looking for, this kind of prayer, this kind of meditation that would erase dualisms."

Great results

This Sr. Sonia would discover for herself when she began teaching Zen meditation, or what she likes to call *pahingalay* (tagalog for "contemplation") to a host of individuals, with great results. ABS-CBN founder Eugenio "Geny" Lopez had three zendos built after meditating with Sr. Sonia and her batch of students that included the outspoken Sr. Christine Tan and her community from Leveriza, Manila. Another urban poor group, this time in Cebu, reported "less noise and fewer quarrels" from engaging in 20 minutes of the chantless, imageless and breath-centered meditation. "Imagine!" marvels Sr. Sonia with a chuckle. And surprisingly, the devotional people she meets are unfazed by the fact that the Cenacle sister is roughly the equivalent of a bishop in the hierarchy of Zen masters. "They are hospitable to my ideas. They readily take to it, like fish to water."

Although more conservative Catholics tend to feel otherwise (as evidenced by the Primer on New Age issued in October 2003 by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, which referred to practices outside the Catholic faith as "the new opium of the people"), Sr. Sonia sees Zen meditation as a complement, rather than a source of conflict, to her religion.

"It helped me understand better what was taught to me in my Theology courses," she says. "When I'm one with my breath, I allow the Spirit to pray within me. So it's no longer I praying with my head and my heart, but it's the Spirit roaming within me, beyond words."

Life in rituals

Indeed, those searching for the meaning of life in rituals from centuries gone by could learn a thing or two from the nun who conducts retreats regularly and helps facilitate a healing mission for cancer patients every Monday morning at the UP Diliman's Parish of the Holy Sacrifice.

"It's not far from where you are," she says assuredly of the seemingly elusive states of joy and peace. "If you're looking for God, God is there. If you're looking for happiness, happiness is there, in what you are engaged in and in the people you are engaged with, whether they are agreeable to you or not. You don't have to go anywhere else." ◆

No fees are charged to those who wish to join Sr. Sonia Punzalan in Zen meditation every Monday from 6-8 pm at the 13/F of the ELJ Communications Center Building, Mo. Ignacia cor. Esguerra Sts., Quezon City. Donations, however, are welcome.

* * *

Beauty pageants are "more than just a showcase," Andam says now

From Beauty

...from page 8

portment, grace and etiquette.

All these proved useful, now that she is a litigation lawyer in the Accra Law Office, one of the more reputable law firms in the country. Her beauty queen past has been an asset as well. "I knew that people will recall that I was once a beauty queen. [But] all the remarks I received were encouraging... affirming," she says.

Barely a year on the job, Andam found it surprising to be assigned a highly controversial case. But she is delighted nonetheless. Women's and children's rights have been close to her heart ever since she aspired to become a lawyer.

"I'm passionate about it. *Unang una babae ako* (I'm a woman, after all)" she says. "*Patayin na nila ako huwag lang nila akong* rape-*in*. (They can kill me, but please, spare me the rape.) *Iba 'yung* violation. It's a violation of your purity, your dignity. It's a serious thing that can happen to a woman," she continues.

Fierce advocacy

Her upbringing as a child, says Andam, was primarily responsible for her current stand on women and children. Her father Benigno, a retired geologist, and mother Lyra, a homemaker, "inculcated serious moral values in me early on in my childhood.

"It's trite to say that the future of the nation is in the hands of the youth, but I really take this to heart," says Andam. "I don't want young people to end up having to repair something in their life. I want them to be preserved in the same way God has preserved me."

And it's an advocacy that she has developed long before she became a beauty queen, she says. Even before she considered fighting for women's rights, children already had a special place in her heart, adds this fourth in a brood of five.

"I have a special concern for children who didn't grow up in good homes like I did. I'd like to be able to impart that kind of inspiration to these young people—that they can grow up to be the kind of man or woman that God intended them to be," declares Andam. She found this consistent with the principle and conviction she lives by—that nobody is born to an average life, all are meant for excellence. It's only us who make our lives imperfect and less than excellent.

But even if she finds happiness in being with children and fighting for their rights, Andam is in no rush to have her own children. She has never had a boyfriend, and she does not mind that.

Relished singlehood

"I trust in God's time," she says. "If he reveals that person to me, I know I will be sure of it.

"I just can't marry any guy. If you merely settle, you're gonna live a horrible and miserable married life, and you wonder why you're miserable," she adds.

So while waiting for the man that God will reveal to her, she'd just relish her singlehood and stay beautiful, says Andam. To achieve this, she indulges in spa treatments and other regimen at the Godiva Skin Center, a company she only agreed to endorse because it was put up by fellow Filipinos, she says.

And if she's fortunate enough to have extra time in her hand, Andam says she will continue writing inspirational stories and tell people how God has become real in her life through books published by the Women of Worth Ministries.

All these accomplishments and responsibilities may feel enormous to others, but for Andam, it is all part of God's perfect plan for her. ◆

Cirio...*from page 2*

because he saw him in 'Field of Fire,' which we shot in five days," recalls Santiago. "Tarantino used to be the manager of a video store. He told me, 'Cirio, you won't believe this, but I've seen all your films.' I said, the good ones or the bad ones? He said, 'All of them.' That's how he fell in love with Pam Grier and David Carradine."

Sometimes, Corman and Santiago would mix'n'match genres, as in "Nam Angels," which had the Hell's Angels motorcycle gang sent on a mission to Vietnam, thereby combining the biker film with the 'Nam action film.

("I had coffee with Steven Spielberg at his mother's restaurant," recalls Santiago. "I thought he was going to hire me, but all he wanted to know was if it was true that we did 'Nam Angels' for only $400,000.")

When Mel Gibson broke big with "Mad Max" and "The Road Warrior," Santiago made a string of post-apocalyptic action epics, among them "Dune Warriors," "Wheels of Fire," and his biggest moneymaker, "Stryker."

"Where in 'Mad Max' it was oil, the plot of 'Stryker' was, he who controls the water controls the wasteland," says Santiago.

New lease on life

When there was no promising new movie to rip off, Corman and Santiago ripped off themselves. After all, why waste a good script? "T.N.T. Jackson" (1975), about a kung-fu fighting soul sister who goes to the Philippines to avenge her sister' death, was repackaged as "Firecracker" (a.k.a. "Naked Fist") in 1981 and again as "Angelfist" in 1993.

Although drive-in theaters are fast becoming history, Santiago's output still has an audience in the straight-to-video market, which has gotten a new lease on life with the emergence of DVD.

"The straight to video market is $15 to $25 million worldwide, except in Asia because of the pirates," says Santiago.

But some things have also changed.

"You can't sell a movie now without a star," he says. "Now when you do films in L.A., you have to pick an A-list star and a B-list star before they will even consider your picture."

Occasionally, Santiago still produces films for the local market, but he sees dismal times ahead for the industry.

"As of today, from 200 films a year, we're only producing 40, and it's diminishing fast," he says. He adds that prospects are dim for independent producers because of the prohibitive cost of promoting films, which is a third of the total cost.

In spite of the industry's decidedly downbeat prospects, Santiago himself remains upbeat—which probably accounts for at least part of his longevity.

"I still have two dream films. One is Raja Sulayman. They say it won't make money, but the story of the King of Tondo fascinates me. It's a Filipino story. My second obsession is to make a film about our old songs—we have fantastic music."

For as long as audiences still go to the movies, Cirio Santiago will be sitting in the front row, looking back.

EBONY
IVORY
& JADE

The Court...*from page 4*

no Javellana, his longtime friend and lawyer, and John Paloy, a former Philippine Constabulary (PC) captain.

The court was not able to hand down its verdict to his son Rodolfo and Eduardo "Boy Muslim" Iran. Both are still at large. Rodolfo has sought asylum in Canada and the Canadian Supreme Court will not extradite him. Meanwhile, former PC sergeant Iran, the one who allegedly sprayed the last round of bullets in Javier's body, has yet to surface.

Disgust

Understandably, not everyone in Antique was satisfied with the verdict. Enrique Zaldivar, former governor and ambassador as well as a Javier ally comments, "I was very disgusted. We all know Pacificador had a hand. I am disappointed that our hero Evelio was not given fair justice." Governor Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez, his sister, has a different take. "I believe that our court and judicial system have spoken," she explains. "His acquittal is also viewed by some Antiqueños as something that affects and configures the political equation in my province."

Aside from the celebrated Javier trial, Pacificador was also charged but acquitted in the 1984 Pangpang Bridge massacre, where Javier's supporters and Zaldivar's relatives were killed. "These people manufactured a series of cases against me," he claims. "They wanted to eliminate me from the political picture."

A native of Hamtic, Pacificador considers himself as having a humble background despite his strong political lineage. While his Ilonggo father Roberto was a teacher, his mother Paz Fullon was the daughter of Leandro Locsin Fullon, a general during the Philippine Revolution and Antique's first governor. His older brother Julian was mayor and governor.

Pacificador was a full scholar during his student days at the Manila Law College. Financial problems forced him to move closer back home, where he finished law at the Central Philippine University in Iloilo City. In 1955, he took the bar and passed.

After a short stint in an insurance company, he entered government service, starting with the Bureau of Customs in 1956 as police private of the Port Division. He rose through the ranks to become director of the Central Intelligence and Investigation Division, a position he held until 1969.

It was during the '70s when Pacificador made a name for himself. In 1971, he was elected delegate to the Constitutional Convention and was among the 17 people who wrote the final draft of the 1973 Constitution. In 1978, he ran and won a seat as assemblyman for Region VI and became assistant majority floor leader. Marcos later appointed him minister of state for Public Works and Highways.

Although he was credited with authoring the 1979 Divorce Bill and co-authoring the Judiciary Reform Bill, he was also widely regarded as a Marcos lackey. He used to skip his law classes when the late dictator spoke in Congress, he recalls. "I idolized him. He was not only an eloquent speaker, but he really talked sense."

Pacificador's life changed drastically after Javier's death and Marcos' ouster in People Power I. His house in Parañaque was raided and looted without search warrants, he claims. He and his family feared for their lives. "People were thirsty for my blood and were crying for my head!" he exclaims. He was forced to flee, he says, but insists that he never left the country. "How could I when the Department of Foreign Affairs cancelled my passport?" he adds. The US Embassy also revoked his 10-year visa to the United States, and his photo was plastered on posters as one of the three most wanted men in the country with a bounty of P100,000.

Special treatment

"I did not believe I could get a fair trial," he says. "I was a fugitive from injustice." For nine long years, he stayed away. In March 1995, he said he felt it was the right time to come out. He surrendered at Camp Crame. For the next nine years, he lived inside the provincial jail in San Jose. But he was no ordinary prisoner. He had his own quarters that gave him a breathtaking view of the Sulu Sea. Unlike other inmates, he slept in a room by himself. He also had a kitchen, bathroom and an improvised living room that he shared with the jail guards. Another bonus was the TV set.

"I treated him very well not because he is a known political leader of the province, but as a person seeking justice," says Gov. Zaldivar-Perez whom Pacificador credits, along with Rep. Exequiel Javier, Evelio's younger brother and former governor, for "restoring (his) dignity as a prisoner."

Despite the special treatment, he found himself escaping from jail, says Pacificador with a grin. He carried out his plan during the night, immediately after the roll call. Since the jail has no fences, he could easily run off to the main highway and wait for the getaway car. He would then spent the rest of the night drinking and talking with friends, managing to sneak back before the morning roll call. According to him, the guards knew of his escapades, but tolerated them.

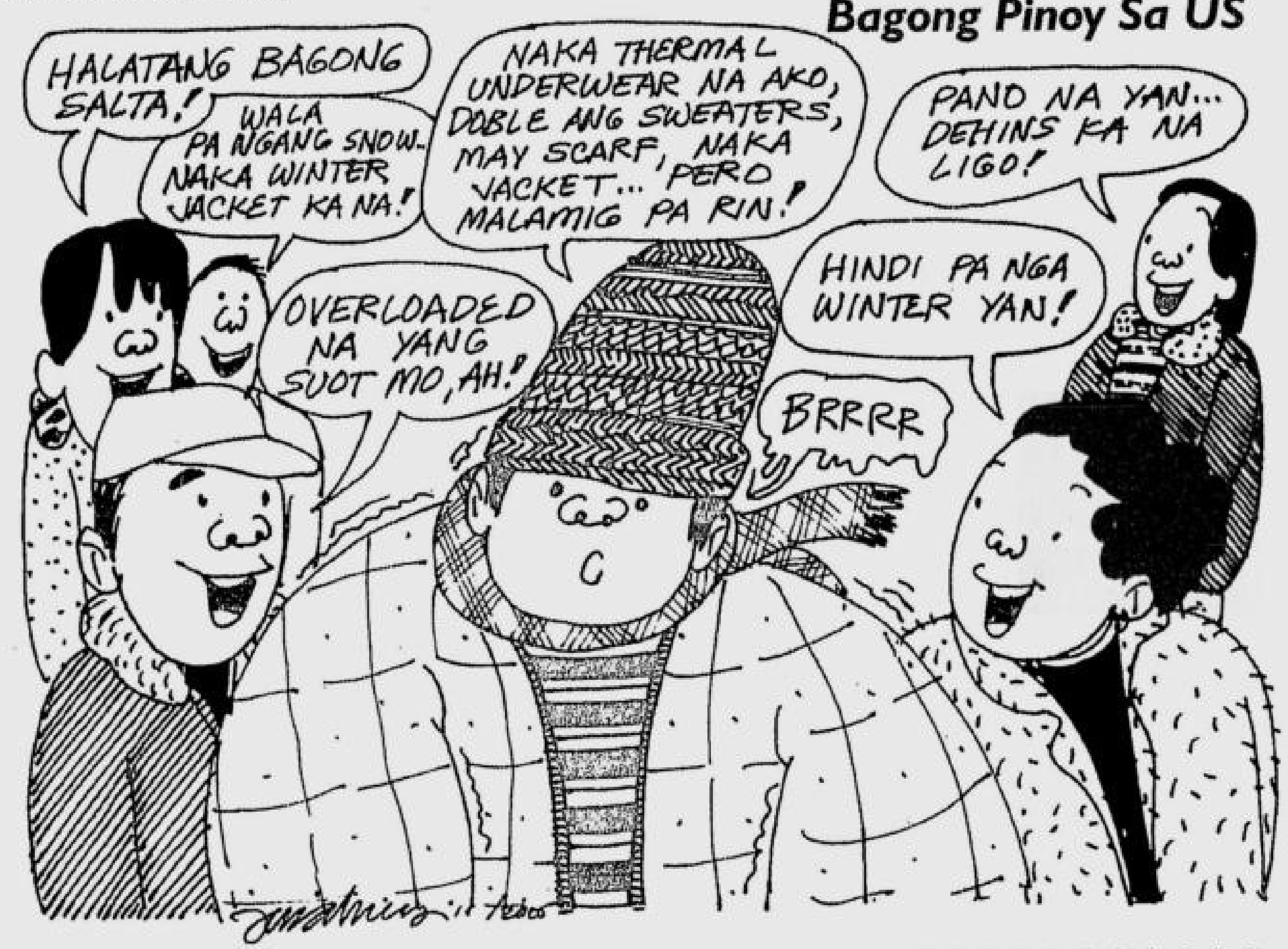
Other tragedies

The prison term aside, the former official recalls the other tragedies that touched his family after 1986. His daughter Portia is in vegetative state after suffering a brain aneurysm, while son Rodolfo remains a refugee in Canada. His grandchildren too have been terribly affected. "They were ostracized by their teachers and classmates, who branded them as grandchildren of a criminal," he says. One teenage grandson was even forbidden by his girlfriend's family from visiting their home. The young man asked him, "*Lolo*, what have you done that we are also condemned?" He recalls saying, "I am an honorable man. Under the law, I am innocent until proven guilty. One day, I will prove to you that I will be cleared of all charges."

That day came last year. But political observers believe that the Pacificador-Javier saga isn't over yet. They await the next chapter with bated breath.

Pinoy Nga!

Bagong Pinoy Sa US


HALATANG BAGONG SALTA!
WALA PA NGANG SNOW. NAKA WINTER JACKET KA NA!
NAKA THERMAL UNDERWEAR NA AKO, DOBLE ANG SWEATERS, MAY SCARF, NAKA VACKET... PERO MALAMIG PA RIN!
PANO NA YAN... DEHINS KA NA LIGO!
OVERLOADED NA YANG SUOT MO, AH!
HINDI PA NGA WINTER YAN!
BRRRR

Tres...*from page 4*

As far back as his college days, however, Roman was already a prodigious sketcher, and friend Delan Robillos would collect these works and frame them. Eventually, Robillos would establish The Artery, Manila, an artist management group, and Roman would headline the group's first show. "I told Delan it was up to him to get me good projects," Roman says—and *voila*, Robillos got him Guyito. "I knew it would be fiberglass, but I honestly didn't know it would be three-dimensional!" he exclaims. "When we first saw the white sculpture, I told myself, 'What is *that*?"

Roman, who considers himself primarily a colorist—and unabashedly admits that "I don't know how to draw"—worked in the garage of his parents' home, covering Guyito with the basic colors he favors. "I hardly blend colors," he says. "I often use them straight from the tube. People may think that's very elementary, but I say, so what? I don't think people like dark or scary works hanging in their living room."

Roman covered Guyito in continuous lines, one of them dotted and marked with an "X" at the end, like those paths you follow in mazes or treasure maps. "I think this project really fits my style, because Guyito is a cartoon, and my works have always been cartoonish." He considered filling the surface with a color-by-numbers pattern, like in children's coloring books, but opted for a more spontaneous, "*halo-halo*" (mixed) approach later on. The result is a Guyito that vibrates with life, embodying the colors of a world where kids can grow up and develop their minds in freedom. This color fiend's favorite shade? "When I was in school, I was into red. Now I'm more a yellow person. I'm sure that's still going to change."

Roman admits he's keen on working as a nurse for now—"It's my last chance at a career," he says, laughing—but he certainly hasn't turned his back on being a full-time artist. "There will be a time for that. Maybe not now, but one day."

Jack...*from page 4*

set amid a breezy background of cascading leaves, mother with child, and children at play.

Mostly, the figures look like his Japanese wife Kazue, whom he met while working with JVC, and his daughters Manami, 11, and Megumi, 2.

Salud started painting full time in 1996, after he left his marketing job at JVC. He was then a watercolor artist.

"I was painting still life," he said. He developed an interest in pottery because "they're kind of hard to miss when you're in Japan." Next he started taking pottery lessons from Jon Pettyjohn in Makati and "became fascinated with the granular texture of the medium."

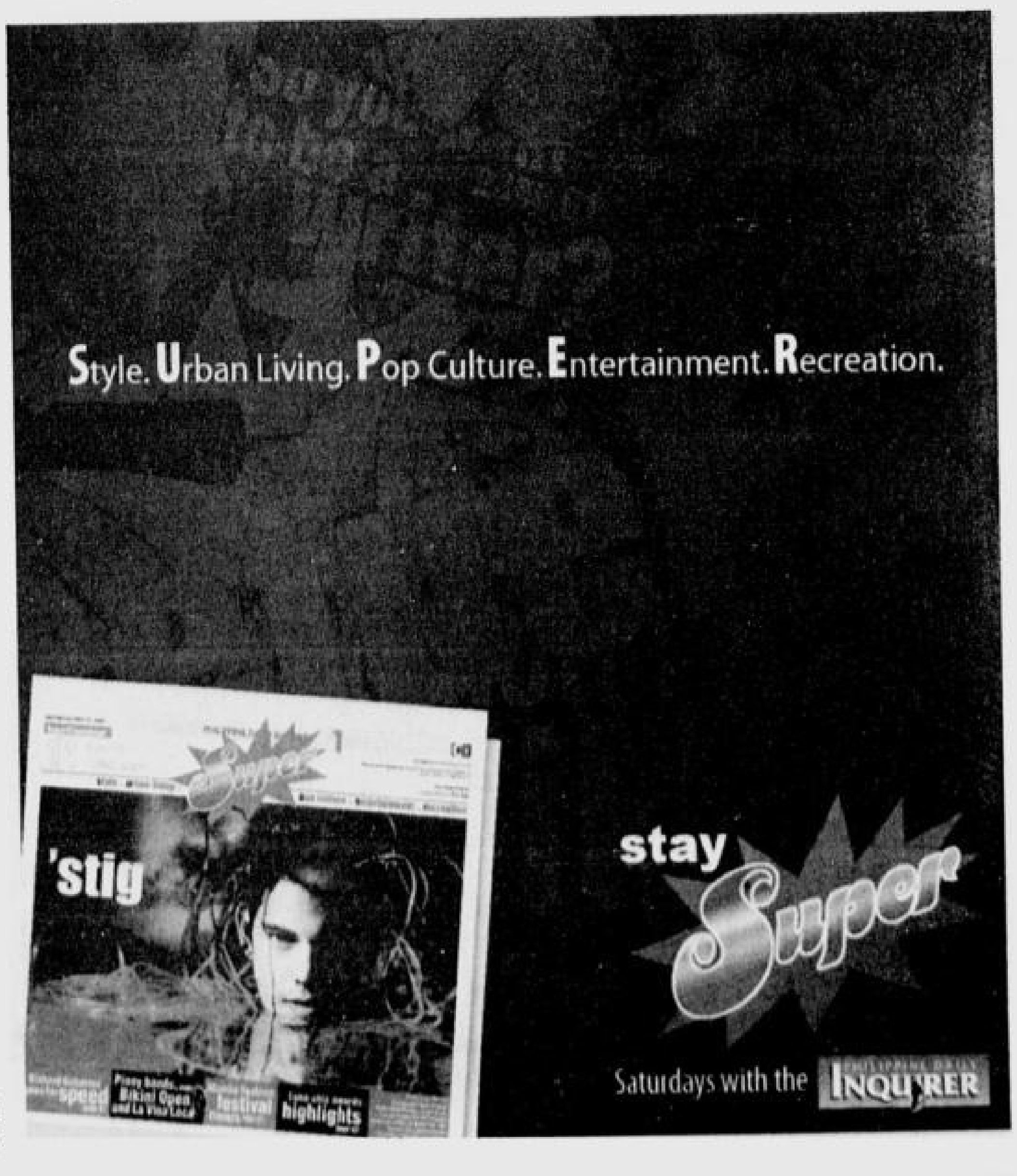
Later, and quite by accident, he discovered pointillism. "I was inspired by the rough texture of pottery, so I started doing dots—just dots," Salud explained.

When he brought one of his dotted works for framing, one of the girls at the gallery said: "*Ay ang* gander! Pointillism."

Say what?

It was at this point—forgive the pun—that Salud discovered that what he had been doing had a name. "I never had formal training in art, except for those summer art lessons I took with kids. I started reading up on pointillism and learned about Georges Seurat, the French painter closely associated with it," he said.

For Salud, this tedious and repetitious process of artistic expression is a genuine labor of love. He explained: "Witnessing this avalanche of multicolored dots gradually transform itself into an image of serenity and joy never ceases to amaze me."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Young Achievers

by Armin Adina

From Beauty Queen To Prosecutor To Future Wife? All In God's Time, She Says

After her reign as Binibing Pilipinas-Universe, Zorayda Andam went on to a promising career with the Accra law firm, and was given a role that again puts her in the limelight: that of private prosecutor in the Subic rape case

AWYER and former beauty queen Zorayda Ruth Andam believes that however unusual her situation is right now, it is God's perfect plan for her.

RAFFY LERMA

While most titleholders choose to sashay on the ramp or hog the klieg lights after their reign, Andam's idea of a post-pageant route involves arguing with fellow lawyers within the halls of justice. "I went into one of the professions viewed as very, very serious," says the 5'8" Baguio native who is part of the all-woman prosecution panel in the high-profile Subic rape case involving six US servicemen.

Being a beauty queen is "not really worlds apart" from being a lawyer, explains the 2001 Binibining Pilipinas-Universe titleholder. "I cannot separate my being a beauty queen from my being a lawyer right now. It's really integrated and that's a wonderful thing," adds Andam, 29, whom her friends call Zora.

Andam was in her third year at the University of the Philippines' College of Law when she tried out for the pageant. As one of the top students in her batch, not a few were surprised with her decision to take a year off from school to pursue something so left of field.

She recalls her friends telling her, "You're not even sure about your chances of winning. Is it worth taking a leave?" Andam, a member of the Law School's elite Order of the Purple Feather, knew where her friends were coming from. After all, she had never joined a pageant before, much less navigated the catwalk.

Worthy risk

But the risk proved to be worth taking as Andam earned the right to represent the country in the Miss Universe pageant, then held in Puerto Rico. She also won a handful of special awards including the title Binibining Pilipinas-Tourism.

Before the competition, Andam recalls praying. "God, expand my horizons, broaden my sphere of influence. God, I don't know how you'd do it. *Basta*, this is my prayer." And God gave her the crown, and more.

Before taking part in the international competition, Andam set off to train in Venezuela. Cramming six months of pageant training into a week-long crash course was tough on the pageant newbie. But no matter. She impressed the judges enough to win second place honors in the contest's national costume competition.

PHILIPPINES

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Fighting form (top to bottom): In the 2001 Miss Universe swimsuit pictorial in San Juan, Puerto Rico; she was first runner-up in the National Costume competition; her official headshot

The Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc. felt she could do more. So in October that year, Andam was sent to Colombia to try her luck in the Miss Tourism World pageant. There she cracked the semis and was crowned Miss Tourism World-Asia.

Significant women

Andam says she doesn't regret taking the pageant route. She's learned things she would not have known had she not become a beauty queen, she adds. For one, she says she discovered that pageants are more than a showcase of beauty or scripted interview segments. She saw pageant contestants as women who want to be recognized, or who want to make a significant contribution to society. Andam even cherishes the lessons she learned on more mundane stuff like de-

To page 6